

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN (OCP) UPDATE

# “OCPizza PARTY” WORKBOOK



# A Resilient Squamish

## TOPICS INCLUDE:

- » Climate Adaptation & Action
- » Hazard Planning
- » Local Systems
- » Transportation
- » Food Systems

#SQUAMISH  
**2040**

## WHAT IS AN OCPizza PARTY?

To plan the future of Squamish together, we need to discuss some complex issues, involve lots of people, and consider many different viewpoints.

This “OCPizza Party” format will help you have these important conversations in a way that is more comfortable than a formal workshop and suits your schedule.

Get together with your family, friends, community groups, co-workers, school class, or neighbours!



### FOOD IS ON US!

As a thank you for sharing your time and ideas, the District is offering a \$30 reimbursement for hosts who provide food at their OCPizza Parties (for groups of 4 or more).

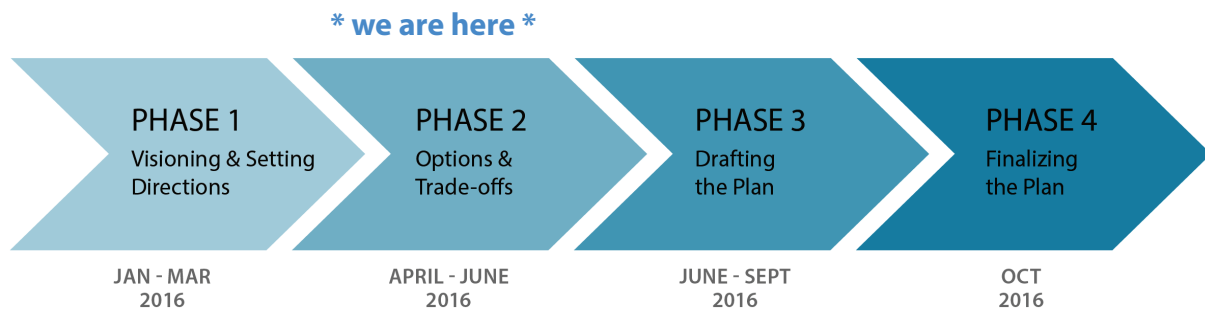
To receive your reimbursement:

- 1. Complete at least 3 topic areas as well as the feedback section and sign-in sheet** (be sure to include your host name and address and participant emails so everyone is entered in the grand prize draw).
- 2. Submit your group's input by May 13th:**
  - » We strongly encourage you to submit your group's input in the online format at [squamish.ca/OCP](https://squamish.ca/OCP) as this will greatly help in analyzing all the feedback received.
  - » You can also submit paper workbooks in person or by mail to:  
District of Squamish, 37955 Second Avenue, Box 310, Squamish, BC, V8B 0A3
- 3. Submit your food receipts.** Email [planning@squamish.ca](mailto:planning@squamish.ca) with a scan or photo of your receipts. Be sure to include your host name and address.

# Submit your workbook by May 13<sup>th</sup>

## INTRODUCTION

The District of Squamish is updating its Official Community Plan, using a four-phase process:



- » **In Phase 1**, community members and stakeholder groups were invited to identify, share and discuss their issues and priorities for the future through interviews, a public event and questionnaire, and workshops with Squamish Nation members, municipal staff, and students from Howe Sound Secondary. Over 1,200 people participated!
- » **Now in Phase 2**, we are diving deeper into specific policy topics and discussing options and trade-offs. Take part in a citizen-led “OCPizza Party” discussion or attend the public workshop to review and comment on some early policy directions.
- » **In Phase 3**, we will use the input received to develop a full draft of the updated OCP and ask for your comments again to make sure we are on the right track.
- » **In Phase 4**, we will finalize the plan and present it to Council for approval.

## HOW DO I USE THIS WORKBOOK?

This workbook will help you host an OCPizza Party with people in your community. This format works best with groups of four or more. In the following pages you will see draft policy directions related to a **Resilient Squamish** (there are two other workbooks that focus on a Growing Squamish and a Thriving Squamish).

You will be asked to review initial policy ideas, rate how strongly you support or oppose the idea, and provide comments to explain why your group feels that way.

**If you have any questions, please check the Workbook FAQ at [squamish.ca/OCP](http://squamish.ca/OCP) or email [planning@squamish.ca](mailto:planning@squamish.ca). We will update the FAQ as we receive questions.**

## HOSTING AN OCPizza PARTY

### 1. Invite

Invite 4-8 people to join you for up to 2 hours of discussion on policy directions related to a **Resilient Squamish**, stressing that the District is really interested in their opinions and thoughts, and that there will be food to fuel the discussion. Propose a time and location that works.

### 2. Prepare

Ask people to print a copy of the related workbook before the meeting, and to come prepared to talk through the issues and generate some recommendations.

### 3. Host

Host the meeting, ordering your food in advance, and using the structure of this workbook to organize the discussion:

- » **Complete the Sign-in sheet.** Be sure to include your host name and address to receive food reimbursement and the names and emails of all participants so everyone is entered in the grand prize draw to win a Sea to Sky Gondola Family Season Pass.
- » **Decide which topic areas your group wants to discuss.** We ask that you complete at least 3 topics but encourage you to complete more.
- » **Complete the Workbook Feedback Section.** Let us know how this format worked for you.

*The key is to have a thoughtful conversation that leads to some consensus about what your group thinks is most essential, and to share ideas on what the policies should say / do.*

### 4. Submit

Make sure that you record your group's thoughts and suggestions as clearly as possible. Don't provide a ton of notes, just the main ideas and recommendations. **We strongly encourage you to submit your group's input in the online format at [squamish.ca/OCP](https://squamish.ca/OCP)** but you can also submit paper workbooks to the District.

Submit your workbook by May 13th and email [planning@squamish.ca](mailto:planning@squamish.ca) with a scan or photo of your food receipts along with your host name and address to receive your reimbursement (up to \$30 for groups of 4 or more).

## TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Here are some tips to help you host a successful OCPizza Party:

- » **Make sure everyone has a chance to say something.** By asking your guests to share their 3 best ideas one-by-one, you're making space for everyone to talk. You can also say, "Bruce, I haven't heard your idea yet. Would you like to share it?"
- » **Reflective time is important.** Where silent time is suggested, we have done this because the best thoughts come from people when they are given time, without being influenced by the views of others. We strongly recommend allowing for the quiet time, to get more diverse and quality input.
- » **Don't be afraid to ask people not to dominate the conversation.** It's ok to gently remind participants that other people need to be able to talk. Say, "Sandra, I know that having a coffee shop downtown really matters to you. We wrote this idea down, now let's hear from others."
- » **It's ok to disagree.** If there's an issue that you can't easily resolve, say: "We don't have to decide today what the answer is. Let's write down both points of view on page 20 of the workbook."
- » **Keep the discussion on-topic.** It's ok to say, "Sandy, thank you for your story about your grandmother. Tell us why this issue is important to you and how it relates to the question we're answering."
- » **Make sure you're capturing people's ideas as well as you can.** When you write something in the workbook or the online form, be sure to say, "Ok I'm writing down the following. Did I get it right?"

# SIGN IN SHEET

Host Name(s)	Email Address & Mailing Address (for food reimbursement & prize draw entry)	Age Range (Under 19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+)	Gender
--------------	--	--	--------

--	--	--	--

Participant Names	Email Address (to be entered in the grand prize draw)	Age Range (Under 19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+)	Gender
-------------------	--	--	--------


## WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DISCUSS?

Select the topics you would like to discuss for a **Resilient** Squamish.

Each topic will take about 15-30 minutes (or more depending on your group discussion). Please complete at least 3 topics, or as many as you like.

### A RESILIENT SQUAMISH: TOPIC AREAS

#### **Topic Area 1: Climate Adaptation & Action**

Includes policy directions on planning for climate change, energy efficient development, district energy systems, active transportation, and infrastructure in hazardous areas.

---

#### **Topic Area 2: Hazard Planning**

Includes policy directions on flood hazard planning, a long-term managed post-disaster retreat, creation of a wildfire and steep slope development permit area, and emergency management planning.

---

#### **Topic Area 3: Local Systems**

Includes policy directions on infrastructure to support compact urban areas and infill, natural 'eco-assets', future area planning, and infrastructure efficiency.

---

#### **Topic Area 4: Transportation**

Includes policy directions on active transportation, public transit, downtown transportation, and road connectivity within Squamish.

---

#### **Topic Area 5: Food Systems**

Includes policy directions on food policy, local and regional food production and processing, food security, urban agriculture, a community food hub, traditional foods and sustainable seafood.

---

# TOPIC AREA 1: CLIMATE ADAPTATION & ACTION

## INTRODUCTION

Squamish is known for its moderate coastal climate with mild seasons and extremely wet winters; snow rarely falls in the lower areas of Squamish outside December and January.

Historical climate data from the Squamish airport shows:

- » Our coldest month is December, when the average temperatures is  $-0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- » Our warmest month is August, when the average temperature is  $17.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- » Our wettest month is November, which sees an average of 380mm of precipitation
- » Our driest month is August, which receives approximately 60mm of precipitation.

Since 1900, temperatures in Southwestern BC have increased by approximately  $1.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and overall precipitation has increased by approximately 5%. Future projections indicate that the region will warm by approximately  $1.7^{\circ}\text{C}$  and become 6% wetter by mid-century. Not surprisingly, snowfall is projected to decrease substantially.

Most of Downtown Squamish is vulnerable to coastal flooding and with future sea level rise this vulnerability will increase. Current provincial guidelines recommend planning for 1m of sea level rise by 2100, and 2m by 2200. However, storm surges will also increase with rising sea levels so we need to prepare for more than just the anticipated sea level rise.

Climate change has the potential to disrupt many of the natural and man-made systems that we rely upon. In The Squamish region has already begun to experience climate-related impacts related to our natural water cycle such as changing river flows, flooding, higher intensity rains, rising sea level, and forest fires.

With proper planning, communities can prepare themselves for both the positive and negative impacts of climate change and take a leadership role in lessening our effects on the climate. Our transportation-related emissions are increasing as our population grows and residents continue to commute outside of Squamish; however, there are opportunities to reduce our emissions through compact, efficient land use and increasing transportation choices for residents.

Energy is also an important part of the OCP and connected with many other issues such as growth management, economic development, transportation, and area planning. The District has opportunities to increase efficiency and reduce emissions in existing municipal buildings, vehicles, facilities and infrastructure as well as procurement policies.



# TOPIC AREA 1: CLIMATE ADAPTATION & ACTION

## WHAT DOES THE CURRENT OCP SAY?

- » Supports climate adaptation by working with partners to understand local impacts and develop strategies and reviewing municipal flood hazard and utility plans to ensure extreme weather events are considered.
- » Supports climate mitigation with polices related to GHG reduction through community planning and design, building efficiency, operations, infrastructure, waste, and renewable energy.
- » Incorporates sustainable development principles into land use planning decisions including building higher urban densities, mixed uses, seeking transportation alternatives, and promoting energy-efficient forms of development.
- » Identifies the need to develop an inventory for energy and emissions from corporate operations.
- » Commits to conducting a community-wide energy, GHG, and air contaminant inventory and forecast, and developing an action plan for conserving energy, increasing energy efficiency, fostering renewable energy, and reducing GHG emissions.

## IDEAS & ISSUES RAISED SO FAR

- » During Phase 1 of the OCP process, over 400 questionnaire respondents identified 'climate change and sea level rise' and 'energy efficiency and production' as very important for the OCP to address.
- » Squamish does not currently maintain an annual emissions inventory to track emissions.
- » It is difficult to reduce overall community emissions with rapid growth and development.
- » Squamish remains a car-dependant community and improvements to pedestrian, cyclist, and public transit infrastructure are needed.
- » The provincial government now allows development controls to help promote energy and water conservation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- » Community members are concerned over GHG-intensive industries and proposed LNG.

# TOPIC AREA 1: CLIMATE ADAPTATION & ACTION

**Please review the draft policy directions that follow.**

After discussing the draft wording, fill in a circle to show your level of support, then add comments to explain in the space provided. Share any other ideas and suggestions you have.

## **POLICY DIRECTION: Planning for Climate Change**

*The District will consider current and future climate change impacts and adaptation strategies as one of the main elements in overall growth management and municipal infrastructure planning.*

*This could mean:*

- » *Continuing to invest in upgrading our diking system*
- » *Creating adaptive land use controls to make sure that infill developments in hazardous areas are prepared for future climate projections.*
- » *Recognizing that future hazards, such as coastal and river flooding, may not be fully mitigated and directing new growth to 'low future hazard areas.' This would also include a stronger approach to address wildfire hazards in areas next to forests and urban wild-lands.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

---

---

---

# TOPIC AREA 1: CLIMATE ADAPTATION & ACTION

## POLICY DIRECTION: Energy Efficient Development

*The District could prepare for a carbon-constrained future by ensuring that new development and redevelopment projects exceed current minimum requirements for efficiency. This could include a set of policies, regulatory tools and incentives to enhance building efficiency, foster resource conservation and reduce GHG emissions. This would likely mean higher construction costs but lower operating costs.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

## POLICY DIRECTION: Neighbourhood-scale District Energy Systems

*Squamish could reinforce and pursue opportunities for neighbourhood-scale District Energy Systems to produce affordable, low-carbon heating and cooling for buildings in denser neighbourhoods. This could involve identifying areas where such systems would be viable, and making sure that new developments in these areas are designed to be able to connect to future energy systems.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

# TOPIC AREA 1: CLIMATE ADAPTATION & ACTION

## POLICY DIRECTION: Active Transportation Planning & Infrastructure

Active transportation (walking, cycling) and public transit will continue to be emphasized as an essential part of our transportation and land use network to reduce GHG emissions. The District will complete an [Active Transportation Master Plan](#) and work to improve pedestrian safety/ connectivity and support transportation and active transportation planning through land use policies. In addition to ensuring that new developments are well connected to trails and public transit routes, this may include shifting the focus of municipal spending towards more active, safe, fun, efficient and accessible transportation infrastructure.

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

---

---

## POLICY DIRECTION: Infrastructure & Hazardous Areas

The District could reduce exposure to climate change by moving essential infrastructure and key municipal facilities from high flood hazard areas as they reach the end of their life cycle. This would support the District's approach of directing new growth to 'low future hazard areas.'

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

---

---

# TOPIC AREA 1: CLIMATE ADAPTATION & ACTION

## POLICY DIRECTION: Local Carbon Credits

*The District could support the creation of a locally planned and managed carbon credit/trading system within the District so that potential offsets would go towards tangible local projects.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

---

---

**Do you have any other comments or suggestions for this topic area?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# TOPIC AREA 2: HAZARD PLANNING

## INTRODUCTION

The mountains, rivers and ocean that contribute to Squamish's character also expose the community to a number of natural hazards. Located on Howe Sound and within the floodplain of the Squamish, Mamquam, Stawamus, Cheekye, and Cheakamus Rivers, Squamish is subject to both ocean and river flooding. Protection from flooding is provided by approximately 17 kilometres of dykes, owned, operated and maintained by the District of Squamish. The community is also vulnerable to debris flows and landslides on steep slopes as well as earthquakes and interface fires from the forested landscapes in and around the community. In addition, climate change is expected to exacerbate these natural hazards.

The District is currently working on a number of initiatives to address hazards:

- » The current [Flood Hazard Management Plan \(1994\)](#) is outdated and the District is in the final stages of its [Integrated Flood Hazard Management Plan](#) to provide a comprehensive mitigation strategy to reduce the likelihood and consequences of flood events. Mitigation strategies for the Cheekye Fan are also under consideration.
- » As the community grows and future sub-areas and neighbourhoods develop, wildfire management will increasingly play an important role to manage and mitigate wildfire risk.
- » A Community Emergency Plan was developed in 2006 that identifies potential emergencies and disasters and appropriate response procedures. Development of a [Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan](#) is currently underway.

## WHAT DOES THE CURRENT OCP SAY?

- » States that development is not permitted in areas subject to unacceptable flood and debris flow hazards, rockfall, land slip, seismic, or other natural hazards.
- » States that a 200-year flood protection standard along the Squamish, Mamquam, Stawamus, Cheekye and Cheakamus Rivers will be maintained.
- » Requires a report prepared by a qualified engineer for all development proposals located within an identified natural hazard area.
- » Exempts non-residential uses Downtown from required flood construction elevation.
- » Identifies parts of the Cheekye Fan as a Special Study Area for debris flow hazard and requires additional studies to identify compatible land uses and mitigation strategies.
- » States the District will strive to be 'FireSmart'.

# TOPIC AREA 2: HAZARD PLANNING

## IDEAS & ISSUES RAISED SO FAR

- » There is significant development pressure in Squamish on a limited land base. This is leading to increased development interest in hazardous areas of the community.
- » Hazard mitigation is addressed on an ad hoc basis; a comprehensive approach would be more effective, however securing funding for risk mitigation planning has been challenging.
- » Currently there are no risk tolerance criteria for development in high hazard areas.
- » Protective dikes in Squamish do not meet provincial standards and dike upgrades will require significant funding.
- » While there has been limited coastal development to date, Squamish will need to consider sea level rise as the community grows.

**Please review the draft policy directions that follow.**

After discussing the draft wording, fill in a circle to show your level of support, then add comments to explain in the space provided. Share any other ideas and suggestions you have.

## POLICY DIRECTION: Long-term, Post-Disaster, Managed Retreat

*Following a flood disaster in Squamish, homes, businesses and infrastructure could retreat (be relocated) from the highest hazard areas of the floodplain in order to reduce the impact of future flood events. Over time this would lead to a more resilient community but would have social and economic impacts on retreat areas following a large flood event.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

---

---

# TOPIC AREA 2: HAZARD PLANNING

## POLICY DIRECTION: Renewed Flood Hazard Planning

*Squamish will maintain a robust flood risk mitigation program that incorporates **protect** strategies (e.g. diking); **accommodate** strategies (e.g. flood construction levels for buildings and preservation of floodways); and **avoid** strategies (e.g. directing development to areas with low or no hazard risk and avoiding development in high hazard areas). This means that some high hazard areas of the community would see limited development and densification over time and some development aspirations in these areas may not be viable.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

---

---

## POLICY DIRECTION: Emergency Management Planning

*Squamish will take an integrated approach to emergency management to strengthen community resilience. This means the District would continue to build capacity to advance emergency response and disaster recovery abilities, enhance citizen engagement and community preparedness, and work towards recognized best practices for post-emergency/disaster resilience for the community's facilities required for emergency response.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

---

---



# TOPIC AREA 2: HAZARD PLANNING

## POLICY DIRECTION: Hazard Development Permit Area & Guidelines

*A development permit area could be created to identify areas subject to wildfire interface and steep slope hazards and identify mitigation requirements to ensure that new developments are not exposed to these hazards. This is not currently regulated in Squamish but has been recognized as a significant gap in land use/hazard planning.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

**Do you have any other comments or suggestions for this topic area?**

# TOPIC AREA 3: LOCAL SYSTEMS

## INTRODUCTION

Squamish's municipal utility services include water, wastewater treatment, stormwater management, and solid waste management. In addition to the hard infrastructure the District manages, natural areas throughout the community also help to absorb and filter stormwater runoff. It is critical that these services are efficient and effective to provide for current residents and meet future demand.

Like many communities, Squamish struggles to balance the community's desire for investments and improvements in local systems with the desire to keep property and utility taxes reasonable. Squamish does have a number of areas where aging infrastructure, particularly water and sewer, are over capacity; this presents a major challenge for further growth and infill, especially smaller projects that can't afford to upgrade existing systems. The OCP plays a critical role in determining future infrastructure service costs by guiding development and growth patterns.

## WHAT DOES THE CURRENT OCP SAY?

- » States that municipal infrastructure is to be efficient, appropriately scaled, include sustainable alternatives and technologies, and be consistent with sustainable growth management.
- » Requires that local systems be planned to accommodate existing and future needs, conserve resources, and be fiscally responsible.
- » Requires infrastructure for fire protection throughout the community.
- » Use a variety of mechanisms to finance new infrastructure, including Development Cost Charges, developer contributions, and capital expenditures. Prior to using public funds, the District will assess the implications of such expenditures.
- » Discourages the extension of municipal services to isolated properties in favour of infill that makes efficient use of existing infrastructure.
- » Restricts the extension of municipal water and sewer servicing to areas above an elevation of 200 metres for efficiency and cost of services.
- » The District will consult with Squamish Nation regarding local systems that benefit reserves.

## IDEAS & ISSUES RAISED SO FAR

- » Squamish's rapid growth requires thoughtful planning for short- and long-term system needs.
- » Taxes and government spending needs to be reasonable, while providing local systems that meet current and future needs.

## TOPIC AREA 3: LOCAL SYSTEMS

- » Many parts of Squamish have aging infrastructure in need of repair and/or upgrade. In some neighbourhoods, this presents a challenge to the District's goal of encouraging infill development.
- » There is a need to explore new opportunities to work with Squamish Nation to provide local systems on reserves
- » Our local systems and the way we manage them directly impacts our natural environment and can also have an effect on climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- » Natural areas provide many benefits such as flood protection and absorption and filtration of stormwater; these areas should be protected and enhanced to provide ecological services.

**Please review the draft policy directions that follow.**

After discussing the draft wording, fill in a circle to show your level of support, then add comments to explain in the space provided. Share any other ideas and suggestions you have.

### **POLICY DIRECTION: Infrastructure Efficiency**

*Improving the efficiency of our current, aging infrastructure (including identifying, analysing, and repairing leakages from the water system, and inflow and infiltration of stormwater to the sewer system) will be a top priority for municipal service spending. Increasing the efficiency of existing systems will be an ongoing maintenance and repair task; however, this could result in both environmental and financial savings.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

# TOPIC AREA 3: LOCAL SYSTEMS

## POLICY DIRECTION: Infrastructure to Support Compact Urban Form & Infill

All serviced growth will be focused in:

- » Downtown and immediately surrounding areas,
- » Existing neighbourhoods through infill, and
- » Areas adjacent to existing serviced areas.

The long-term goal is to minimize expansion into rural areas and locate development and municipal infrastructure away from hazardous areas. This means that lands outside of municipally serviced areas will be protected from residential or commercial development for the next 20 years. To support compact growth, the District will focus on upgrading municipal infrastructure in existing areas, particularly where aging and at-capacity infrastructure is restricting infill opportunities. This would mean a shift in priority to support smaller infill projects, recognizing that larger developments are able to afford system improvements and extensions that are necessary to service new developments.

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

---

---

## POLICY DIRECTION: Infrastructure & Future Area Planning

The District will use plans for upgrading water, sewer, stormwater, and waste management services to guide the OCP's phasing criteria for growth management. This will help to prioritize and direct the sequencing of development and growth in future neighbourhood areas. Fiscal implications (such as taxation) will be a key factor when considering extension of municipal services into new areas, along with considerations of climate change, hazards, sensitive habitats, and efficiency.

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

---

---

# TOPIC AREA 3: LOCAL SYSTEMS

## POLICY DIRECTION: Natural 'Eco-Assets'

*The District will place a larger emphasis on the role and integration of natural 'eco-assets' (such as riparian areas, wetlands, aquifers, forested areas and man-made systems that mimic natural processes); recognizing that this natural infrastructure is complex and interconnected and provides valuable ecosystem services for stormwater management and climate adaptation.*

*This could mean include taking an integrated approach to stormwater management and reviewing/updating every five years along with land use and development planning. It could also mean updating municipal subdivision and development servicing standards and requirements to emphasize things like bio-swales, vegetation islands in streets, rain gardens, permeable area requirements, and stormwater detention and reuse.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

**Do you have any other comments or suggestions for this topic area?**

# TOPIC AREA 4: TRANSPORTATION

## INTRODUCTION

With increasing population growth and development density, getting to/from and around Squamish is key for smart and sustainable growth. Currently, the community is largely automobile oriented with over 80% of people getting to work or school by car, and vehicle transportation currently makes up the bulk of the District's greenhouse gas emissions (at 55% of total emissions). Transportation is also linked to many other outcomes; it has been shown that neighbourhoods that support walking, cycling and access to public transit increase economic, environmental, community, social and individual health.

The District has been working towards an efficient, balanced, and integrated multi-modal transportation system. An [Active Transportation Plan](#) is currently being created to guide improvements to the existing trail networks, sidewalk accessibility, and cycling infrastructure within and between our local neighbourhoods. Improving access, efficiency and reliability of public transit is also important to address gaps in service, increase ridership and make transit a viable alternative to vehicles in Squamish. Improving regional transportation options along the Sea-to-Sky, will also help reduce vehicle commuter traffic.

The District continues to work on maintaining and improving the municipal road network and work with BC Highways to ensure safe and efficient highway crossings. A Commercial Truck Route Study is also currently underway to identify a preferred truck route through downtown.

## WHAT DOES THE CURRENT OCP SAY?

- » Aims to provide a balanced transportation system that encourages safe and efficient transit, cycling, pedestrian and other modes of travel throughout the municipality and between the communities in the Sea to Sky corridor
- » States the District will continue to work with BC Transit to improve the frequency of service in the community and to identify new routes to support emerging neighbourhoods.
- » States the District will work to improve the community's trail network and work with existing and new developments to create internal pathways/trails to access parks, recreation facilities, and other community amenities in existing neighbourhoods.
- » States the District will investigate opportunities for alternative transportation and facilities to get to/from and within the Downtown, such as a downtown transportation hub.
- » Identifies the need for a Downtown Parking Strategy and Truck Route Study to address future transit expansion and efficient movement of people and goods in the downtown.

## IDEAS & ISSUES RAISED SO FAR

- » Residents expressed strong support for improving the community's active transportation network.
- » Improvements are needed to enhance transit access, efficiency, connectivity and reliability.

# TOPIC AREA 4: TRANSPORTATION

- » Improvements are needed to provide convenient and safe highway crossings for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.
- » Upgrades to existing trail networks and corridors (including the dike trail system and rail corridors), provide an opportunity to increase connections between neighbourhoods.
- » A Downtown Parking Strategy is needed.
- » New development areas should include active/alternative transportation infrastructure amenities.
- » Alternative vehicle options, such as a Squamish car share, could help to address increasing concerns for neighbourhood and strata parking.

**Please review the draft policy directions that follow.**

After discussing the draft wording, fill in a circle to show your level of support, then add comments to explain in the space provided. Share any other ideas and suggestions you have.

## POLICY DIRECTION: Active Transportation

*More emphasis will be placed on completing and improving the local active transportation network (trails, pathways, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes) to provide safe and convenient connections throughout the community. Regulation would be used to support active transportation infrastructure and amenities in new developments. This may require that the District purchase trail corridors and construct new trails to complete connections between neighbourhoods and to key recreation and commercial destinations.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

---

---

# TOPIC AREA 4: TRANSPORTATION

## POLICY DIRECTION: Public Transit

*Transit access, efficiency and reliability will continue to be improved within the current transit system, both within Squamish and to/from other communities along the Sea to Sky corridor. Building public trust and confidence in the local transit system will help to increase ridership over time. Additional transit funding, possibly through increased transit fees, could also help to support increased service. The District will explore innovative strategies to increase transit convenience and ridership and work to develop affordable, convenient and sustainable travel options to Whistler and Vancouver to provide alternatives to single occupancy vehicle commuting.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

---

---

## POLICY DIRECTION: Downtown Transportation

*The District will develop policy to support effective active transportation in Downtown Squamish. This will include:*

- » *Creating a Downtown Parking Strategy to addresses parking issues, prioritize active transportation access and convenience, and incorporate car share and bicycle parking into residential development.*
- » *Identifying an appropriate downtown location for a multi-modal transit hub to accommodate tour buses and local and regional transit connections.*
- » *Implementing findings from the Commercial Truck Route Study to address truck movement and downtown.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

---

---



# TOPIC AREA 4: TRANSPORTATION

## POLICY DIRECTION: Road Connectivity Within Squamish

*Traffic congestion on Highway 99 is expected to increase as Squamish and other corridor communities grow and new tourism destinations are developed. To address local traffic congestion, the District will look at options for local road connectivity and explore alternatives to Highway 99 for vehicle travel between Squamish neighbourhoods.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

---

---

**Do you have any other comments or suggestions for this topic area?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# TOPIC AREA 5: FOOD SYSTEMS

## INTRODUCTION

Food systems are complex; they include everything from production to processing, transportation access, consumption, and waste management. By applying a ‘food lens’ to the OCP, the District has an opportunity to integrate policies to promote more sustainable food systems. In 2015, the District adopted the Squamish Food Charter that identifies the principles of Community Economic Development, Ecological Health, Social Justice, Collaboration and Participation, and Celebration to achieve a food secure future for Squamish. The Charter provides a starting point for thinking about food security in Squamish and how the OCP can help us to achieve a future where all residents have access to healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food.

## WHAT DOES THE CURRENT OCP SAY?

The current OCP includes some consideration of local food systems, but lacks comprehensive policies and details. The OCP currently:

- » Identifies local food production and agriculture as an objective for growth management.
- » Promotes Downtown parks and open spaces for the Squamish Farmers’ Market and community gardens.
- » Requires that new area plans identify opportunities for local food production.
- » Recognizes the importance of agriculture and food production, and identifies the need to work with local organizations to find additional opportunities.
- » Supports initiatives that increase local food production and sales, and encourages urban agriculture.

## IDEAS & ISSUES RAISED SO FAR

- » Current OCP food policy is limited; the [Squamish-Lillooet Regional Growth Strategy](#) review identified the need for stronger support for the agriculture industry and for maintaining lands in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). This OCP update provides an opportunity to better integrate food security and sustainable food systems and to align planning policy with regional growth strategy goals.
- » Improving local food systems will help to improve community resilience and self-sufficiency, improve individual health, increase local employment and agri-tourism opportunities, improve social connections, and provide places for public gathering throughout the community.

# TOPIC AREA 5: FOOD SYSTEMS

- » Food systems are directly and indirectly connected to many other policy areas including climate change; natural area preservation; land use and growth patterns; transportation, water, and waste management systems; and social equity. Applying a 'food lens' to the OCP would help to consider the complex ways in which food policy can influence the community as well as ways that other policies influence and impact our food system.

**Please review the draft policy directions that follow.**

After discussing the draft wording, fill in a circle to show your level of support, then add comments to explain in the space provided. Share any other ideas and suggestions you have.

## **POLICY DIRECTION: Expand & Integrate Food Policy**

*The OCP will integrate the [Squamish Food Charter](#) and expand existing food policy to reflect all aspects of food systems, including production, processing and distribution, food retailing and access, opportunities for education and social cohesion, and food waste management.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

- Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

---

---

# TOPIC AREA 5: FOOD SYSTEMS

## POLICY DIRECTION: Food Security for All, in Every Neighbourhood

*The District will identify and work with partners to increase neighbourhood-based 'food assets' and services, and to address barriers to ensure all residents can access healthy and affordable food. The District will support opportunities for dignified and sustainable food recovery and distribution to those in need.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

---

---

## POLICY DIRECTION: Local & Regional Food Production & Processing

*The District will support regional food production and distribution to enhance the Squamish 'Foodshed' and set community targets for local and sustainable food procurement.*

*The District will explore ways that the OCP and other local bylaws can encourage infrastructure and facilities for local food processing, especially for foods produced regionally. This could help to promote local employment while supporting regional food production and consumption.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

---

---

# TOPIC AREA 5: FOOD SYSTEMS

## POLICY DIRECTION: Urban Agriculture

*The District will expand and refine land regulations that encourage urban agriculture throughout the community and integrate food growing (gardens, small plot farming) on municipal lands, parks and vacant lots to increase local food production and provide opportunities for education.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

---

---

## POLICY DIRECTION: Food Lands

*The District will preserve existing land resources for food production, and look for additional opportunities to incorporate food production in limited use and flood prone areas. The District will also look for opportunities to include and allocate growing space in new developments.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

---

---

# TOPIC AREA 5: FOOD SYSTEMS

## POLICY DIRECTION: Allow Food Uses in All Land Designations

*Food lands and related uses will be integrated across all land use designations, including but not limited to, Residential Neighbourhoods, Civic & Institutional, Mixed-use Commercial, and Employment & Industrial.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

## POLICY DIRECTION: Traditional Foods

*The District will work with Squamish Nation to identify resources and opportunities related to traditional foods and foraging within the community. The District will also work with partners to support citizens' awareness and access to healthy, affordable culturally diverse foods.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

# TOPIC AREA 5: FOOD SYSTEMS

## POLICY DIRECTION: Community Food Hub

*The District supports the creation of a central multi-use gathering place for food-based community activities, events, and celebrations, including community kitchens, food storage and composting facilities, as well as co-location of support space for local food resources and programs (Food Bank; food recovery and redistribution).*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

## POLICY DIRECTION: Sustainable Seafood

*The District will explore opportunities to promote sustainable marine harvesting and opportunities for landing, processing and distribution of local sustainable seafood. The District will also work with other agencies to ensure that sustainable aquaculture practices are used in Howe Sound.*

**Level of Support:** (please check only one)

Strongly Oppose    Oppose    Neutral    Support    Strongly Support

**Your Comments:**

## TOPIC AREA 5: FOOD SYSTEMS

**Do you have any other comments or suggestions for this topic area?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# WORKBOOK FEEDBACK

## HOW DID IT GO?

1. How useful did you find this activity for learning about the OCP issues being discussed, and feeling that your input will be heard? Please mark your answer on the scale below.



2. How well did your meeting go overall? Please mark your answer on the scale below.



In terms of everyone having a chance to talk?	<b>no</b>	<b>somewhat</b>	<b>yes</b>
---	-----------	-----------------	------------

In terms of having a good quality discussion?	<b>no</b>	<b>somewhat</b>	<b>yes</b>
---	-----------	-----------------	------------

3. Did you find the materials easy to understand and use? Please mark on the scale below.



4. Would you host this sort of event again?    **yes**     **no**

5. Would you recommend it to others?    **yes**     **no**

6. Any other comments to share? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback on early policy directions. If you know of any others who may be interested, please help us spread the word!

## Save the Date - Public Workshop

Join us on **May 9th from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Brennan Park Recreation Centre.** The workshop will focus on reviewing the same policy directions as this survey but provide an opportunity for deeper discussion with other community members.

### Submit your workbook by May 13<sup>th</sup>



**We strongly encourage you to submit your group's input online at [squamish.ca/OCP](https://squamish.ca/OCP).** This will greatly help in analyzing all the feedback received.



**You can also drop off your completed workbook in person or by mail to:**

District of Squamish, 37955 Second Avenue, Box 310, V8B0A3



**Don't forget to submit your food receipts:**

If you hosted a group meeting with 4 or more people, email [planning@squamish.ca](mailto:planning@squamish.ca) with a scan or photo of your food receipts. Be sure to include your host name and address.