

PLEASE READ THE PROGRAM GUIDE before completing this Nomination Form. All Nomination Forms must be completed in full and submitted with any appropriate supporting documentation. Applicants should be aware that information collected is subject to provincial freedom of information legislation. See the Program Guide for more details.

This Nomination Form is designed to be filled in electronically using word processing software. Each question should be completed using less than 300 words.

If you require further assistance, please contact:

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**A. Nominee Contact Information**

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Primary Contact Name: John Vos		
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How did you learn about the award program:		
Website <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please specify: nominated in 2007		

**B. Nomination Information**

1. Award Category: Please select an award category. For municipalities this will be based on your current official BC Stats population estimate. Regional districts are eligible for both RD categories but should check only one box per form if they are nominating for Electoral Area and Regional awards (i.e. separate nomination forms are needed for each category).

0-1,499 <input type="checkbox"/>	1,500-4,999 <input type="checkbox"/>	5,000-9,999 <input type="checkbox"/>	10,000-24,999 <input type="checkbox"/>
25,000-99,999 <input type="checkbox"/>	100,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RD-Electoral Area <input type="checkbox"/>	RD-Regional <input type="checkbox"/>

2. Synopsis of Nomination: In a succinct fashion, identify and summarize the major initiatives which the community is undertaking that are resulting in the community becoming greener and healthier:

Since Kelowna's 2007 Green City Award Nomination (B.2.1), the City has continued to undertake new initiatives ensuring its commitment to sustainability for the health and wealth of future generations.

To reduce community GHG emissions the City recently developed an Energy Management Plan to meet its commitment to the Climate Action Charter and reduce GHG by 20% at City facilities. Transportation Demand Management, Waste Reduction, Air Quality and Corporate programs are all making efforts to reduce GHG contributions. For example, last month, the City, in partnership with the Government of Canada and Carmanah industries, began installing 100 Carmanah EverGEN solar-powered area lights in community parks, paths and

other public spaces.

Although faced with the devastating pine beetle problem, Kelowna continues to improve and protect its existing Urban Forests and make plans to rehabilitate those sites attacked by the beetle. Initiating research and implementing latest technologies helps improve the health and longevity of urban trees.

The Urban Centre policy outlined in the Official Community Plan has been extremely successful with largest increase in residential development in 2007 being in the City Centre as more people are closer to existing services and the need for new infrastructure is reduced.

The City set its first water conservation goal in 1996 and reached the 20% reduction in overall water use in 2006 despite a 20% increase in population over the same time period. In 2007, the City set another ambitious goal of further reducing water consumption by an additional 15% in five years and adopted a Water Sustainability Action Plan to direct its efforts to achieve the goal.

In its third year of a five year plan, Kelowna's KickStart initiative is the response to the provincial Active Communities Challenge. The success of this program is in part to the extensive community partnerships that engage a broad sector of the population. Newly introduced programs such as KickStart Active Workplace and Free Family Fun Nights continue to provide physical activity opportunities for those who may not normally get active.

Citizens agree, Kelowna is a green, healthy place to live with a 93% overall satisfaction rating for Environmental Services (B.2.2).

### **C. Selection Criteria**

Nominations are assessed according to the selection criteria listed in the Program Guide and on how they meet the goals and objectives of the program. Local government nominees should ensure that they are familiar with the selection criteria and that the information submitted in the nominations makes reference to it. Reviewers will be focusing on recent actions in order to reward those who are actively and effectively initiating change. **In answering the following questions, please ensure you provide details such as specific and measurable benefits, implementation timelines and effect on the community from actions over the last couple of years.**

#### **1. Contribution Towards Community Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions**

a) Has the nominee developed a corporate or community climate change plan/strategy, or incorporated strategies into existing community/regional plans? If yes please describe highlights.

For nearly 15 years, Kelowna has endorsed energy management and carbon neutrality as two important objectives with the goal of reducing both energy consumption and environmental and climate change impacts of facility operations. From the establishment of an Energy Management Committee in 1994 (1.a.1) to introducing new Solar lighting technologies, Kelowna continually looks for innovative ways to reduce its carbon footprint.

Council endorsed the City's Sustainability Working Group Action Plan in 2007 (1.a.2), calling for a 20% reduction in GHG emissions and 15% reduction in water consumption for all City facilities by 2011 and 2012 respectively.

In response, the City recently created an Energy Management Plan (1.a.3). The Plan is based on a benchmark audit for Civic facilities calculating Building Energy Performance Indices (BEPI) as well as performed energy audits and analysis on the top ten energy use facilities.

The Energy Management Plan has two phases. The first focuses on how the City uses energy. A 14% GHG reduction can be achieved by implementing four strategies as soon as possible. Strategies include turning off equipment when not needed; post occupancy commissioning and ongoing maintenance; staff education; and demonstration of energy management upgrades. Phase two focuses on technological upgrades to achieve the remaining 6% of the GHG reduction target. Upgrades include retrofit programs; identifying energy management opportunities; energy assessment plans; and energy management strategies in all new facilities.

Has the nominee signed on to the British Columbia Climate Action Charter?

Yes       No

b) Describe how the local government is contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (include details of initiatives).

City initiatives to reduce GHG emissions corporately and in the community include:

**CORPORATE ENERGY REDUCTION STRATEGIES:**

- Over 80 upgrades and retrofits to City facilities to save over 4.4 million kW hours annually.

- Conversion of all traffic intersection lights to LED (reducing electricity 90%) and to 51 solar-powered pedestrian signals.
- Approving energy conservation enhancements for the new Aquatic Facility to save 850 tonnes GHG annually compared to the original plan.
- Installing 100 solar-powered lights in community parks, paths and other public spaces in 2008 (1.b.1)
- Improving the efficiency of the City's fleet by purchasing 2 hybrid and 18 smart cars.
- Introducing an Energy Management Plan (1.a.3) with strategies to achieve a 20% GHG reduction by 2012.

#### COMMUNITY AIR QUALITY INITIATIVES

- Scrapping 763 vehicles as part of the The Cash for Clunkers Program (1.b.2) reducing GHG and 626 tonnes of air contaminants.

#### TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT (TDM) INITIATIVES:

- Setting the goal of reducing peak period automobile traffic by 12% by 2013.
- Offering Bike to School Week in conjunction with Bike to Work Week (1.b.3)
- Offering a Bus Rapid Transit Line in fall, 2008 with limited stop service from the Westside to UBCO. Possible expansions to Vernon and Penticton are already being discussed.
- Coordinating Walk to School Week and Walk to Work week in October.
- Following a Smart Transit Plan (1.b.4) to encourage Transit Oriented Development.

#### WASTE REDUCTION / LANDFILL INITIATIVES:

- Using methane as fuel for micro-turbines and flaring of methane recovered at the landfill as part of the Landfill Gas Recovery Program.
- Composting biosolids and yard waste to create soil amendment products OgoGrow(1.b.5) and Glenmore Grow, a method with substantially less GHG impact than burial of reusable organics.
- Creating a new region wide Automated Curbside Residential Waste Collection program (service March 2009) to reduce GHG through an increase in diverted waste and fewer self-haul trips.

c) What are the estimated GHG emission reductions that have resulted from local government initiatives?

City programs are now beginning to track potential GHG reductions. Those that have been calculated to date

are summarized below:

- In 2007 Landfill Gas Recovery program burned 636 tonnes of landfill gas methane, representing 13,350 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e not released to the atmosphere.
- Since 2003, the Cash for Clunkers program scrapped 763 vehicles which correlates to 4288 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.
- Once all strategies in the Energy Management Plan are implemented, City facilities will achieve a 1002 tCO<sub>2</sub>e reduction in GHG.
- Upon implementation, the Automated Curbside Residential Waste Collection program will reduce GHG by 15,588 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

d) If possible, please outline in detail, the methodology used to determine GHG emission reduction estimates.

The estimated GHG emission reductions noted in the previous question were calculated using several methods including:

- Greenhouse Gas Emission Assessment Guidebook for British Columbia Local Governments – this resource was used to calculate the reductions in the City's Energy Management Plan (1.a.3) based on utility consumption data. The Guidebook was also used to calculate the GHG reduction due to decreased landfill self haul trips with the implementation of the Automated Waste Collection program.
- Waste Reduction Model (WARM) Calculator – the EPA's WARM calculator was used to calculate the GHG reduction associated with anticipated waste that will be diverted from the landfill with the upcoming Automated Collection program.
- Consultants – CH2MHill provided equations that are supplemented with on-site monitoring and flow meters to determine the reduction in GHG due to the Landfill Gas Recovery Project.
- Environment Canada's Emission Reduction Software for Vehicle Scrapage Programs – equations provided by Environment Canada combined with the number of vehicles scrapped determined the GHG reductions associated with the Cash for Clunkers program.

## **2. Urban Forests and New Urban Design to Increase Density and Reduce Urban Sprawl**

a) Has the nominee developed an urban forest plan/strategy, or incorporated strategies into existing community/regional plans? If yes please describe highlights.

Kelowna has completed portions of an urban forest plan/strategy including Planting Specifications (2.a.1), a Tree Planting Guide and Suggested Species (2.a.2), and Detailed Design Specifications for Tree Planting ). Further work is underway to tie the information together in one Plan.

Several City bylaws and policies protect existing vegetation and/or require installation of new trees including: Municipal Properties Tree Bylaw (2.a.3), protecting trees on City properties; Tree Protection Bylaw (2.a.4) regulating tree removal in environmentally sensitive areas; and the Zoning Bylaw (2.a.5) and the Subdivision, Development and Servicing Bylaw (2.a.6) establish landscaping standards for commercial, institutional, industrial and residential zones. Recently, Council directed staff to re-examine existing bylaws and policies and recommend changes to further promote the retention and planting of vegetation (2.a.7). This will include changes to the Official Community Plan which are currently underway.

An effective management strategy requires knowing existing resources. To that end, staff completed two studies to develop a baseline and to guide future goals and policy. Kelowna is the first city in BC to complete an Urban Forest Effects (UFORE) analysis (2.a.8), which looks at the structure, function and the environmental benefits (including energy savings and greenhouse gas reductions) of the existing urban forest. Kelowna was the second city in BC to use the Street Tree Resource Analysis Tool for Urban Forest Managers (STRATUM) (2.a.9) to analyze the costs and benefits of street trees. Both models were developed by the US Forest Service. Staff have also conducted a complete inventory of Kelowna's 20,000 planted street and park trees, detailing the species makeup, condition and maintenance requirements (2.a.10).

Using the results of these analyses and through public consultation with the community, the city will be developing future goals for tree cover and additional strategies to achieve those goals.

b) Describe how the local government is improving and increasing forested areas in the community (include details of initiatives).

The detailed tree and forest cover inventory (2.a.10.1) allows the City to determine baseline levels for tree cover and appropriate goals for increasing forested areas in the future.

The City has an aggressive mountain pine beetle control program (2.b.1) to help protect trees from attack and to encourage private land owners to do the same; however it is expected many Kelowna pines will be lost. Plans are in place to remove infested trees; mitigate hazards; and replant to rehabilitate the site by starting a new forest, as quickly as possible. Sponsors are being solicited to aid reforestation efforts on public and private lands. A similar program after the Okanagan Mountain Park Fire resulted in 130,000 seedlings planted by 20,000 people, a world record (2.b.2).

In 2005, Kelowna's first arboretum (Mission Recreation Park Arboretum) (2.b.3) was developed through taxpayer funding and donations from Tree Canada, Home Hardware, BC Hydro, and FORTIS BC. Every year the arboretum is expanded; most recently a local gardener's group donated \$25,000. The arboretum is an important educational tool, with interpretive signage showcasing the tree species suited to the Kelowna region and the principal of "right tree in the right place". Additional website materials educate and encourage the public to plant more trees and as well as promote good tree care practices (2.a.2).

The City has been a leader in research and practices to improve the health and longevity of urban trees. For example, Kelowna was the first city in Canada to use "Rubber Sidewalks", allowing installation of a sidewalk next to mature trees without destroying their root systems. In 2007, Kelowna was the first customer in North America to utilize "Silva Cells", designed to increase the health, size and longevity of trees planted in commercial or downtown areas(2.b.4). Kelowna has also participated in research efforts to reduce water requirements for newly planted trees and to improve tree health and drought resistance by inoculating tree roots with mycorrhizal fungi.

c) Describe how the local government is promoting distinctive, attractive, and walkable higher density development in strategically targeted areas aimed at reducing urban sprawl (include details of initiatives).

The City of Kelowna promotes urban centre development (2.c.1) and transportation demand management (2.c.2) through Official Community Plan (OCP) (2.c.3) policies. Chapter 6 of the OCP directs a significant portion of projected commercial and residential development to Urban Centres. OCP policies include direction to focus civic improvements and investment of civic capital to Urban Centres in the form of parks and park amenities, greenways, linear corridors, transit and alternative transportation. Urban Centres provide opportunities for people to live, work, shop and play in the same area by including commercial, residential,

recreation, cultural and entertainment uses.

The Downtown and Rutland Urban Centres have revitalization tax exemption programs (2.c.4) as an incentive to encourage appropriate redevelopment. New development can apply for a tax exemption certificate to exempt a project from the municipal share of property taxes on new improvements for up to 5 years. That exemption may be renewable for an additional 5 years. No tax exemption certificates have been issued to date.

A Parking Credit Program (2.c.5) supports redevelopment Downtown that has difficulty meeting parking requirements. Within a specific benefitting area, the City provides a subsidy for those deficient parking spaces up to a maximum of 25 spaces per year within the specific area. There is a further parking credit of 25 spaces available within the Downtown Tax Exemption program area.

The City of Kelowna along with BC Transit will introduce 12 double-decker buses later this fall as part of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system to link communities on the west side of Okanagan Lake with Downtown Kelowna, Rutland, other town centres and UBC Okanagan. Partnering with socially responsible organizations, a social marketing campaign reflecting on the importance of doing the "right thing" environmentally and socially, will be featured on the BRT system. This campaign is the first of its kind in Canada. Finally, Transit Supportive Guidelines outlined in the Smart Transit Plan (2.c.6) will result in the creation of new Transit Oriented developments (TOD).

d) Does the local government have development standards and policies which have resulted in new low impact, complete and compact developments within the community? If yes please describe highlights (of standards/policies as well as resulting developments). If no, please describe any recent *ad hoc* or pilot projects which have resulted in construction of low impact developments

Higher density centrally located projects contribute in a general way to compact urban form (i.e. access by proximity; brownfield redevelopment; less impact on land base and infrastructure needs). In 2007 the largest increase in residential development was in the City Centre (27% of new residential units) and City Wide, apartment or townhouse units accounted for 64% of total units. More people are closer to existing services and the need for new infrastructure is reduced.

Suburban or resort developments typically are planned comprehensively to support a mix of land uses and densities in more complete communities that include neighbourhood and community commercial, parks / linear corridors, schools and a range of residential types and densities (including potential cluster housing where a significant portion of a site is preserved as undisturbed natural open space). In order to preserve farmland many of these developments are located in hillside areas. The City of Kelowna has developed hillside development policies (2.d.1) and alternative hillside development standards (particularly road widths) to facilitate access and preserve the visual character of such sites as seen from elsewhere through setbacks from ridgelines, tree retention, form and character design guidelines.

The City of Kelowna recently conducted a Hillside Audit (2.d.2) to review the hillside guidelines and standards to determine if the existing guidelines and standards achieve City objectives for hillside development that is aesthetically pleasing, functionally appropriate and environmentally sensitive. That process has been completed and implementation of Audit recommendations is on-going. The Planning Institute of B.C. conferred an Award of Excellence on this project.

### **3. Reducing Water Use**

a) Has the nominee developed a water conservation/demand management plan/strategy, or integrated strategies within existing community/regional plans? If yes please describe highlights.

Kelowna is considered one of Canada's leaders in water conservation. In 1996, the City aimed for a 20% reduction in overall water use. Being the first Canadian municipality to mandate the use of low-flow fixtures in new construction, employing a full time water conservation coordinator and implementing universal water metering, allowed the City to meet its goal by 2006.

The 2007 Water Sustainability Action Plan (3.a.1) set new targets to reduce water consumption by a further 15% by 2012. Each of the seven points listed represents a call for action corporately and throughout the community.

1. Require, Implement and Track Demand Side Management Programs (DSM). Track internal and external customer consumption data, ensuring patterns are meeting reduction targets. Work with all corporate customers to develop DSM reduction plans. Monitor and adapt DSM programs over the long term and plan for water sustainability beyond 20 years.

2. Enhance Customer Education through Effective Social Marketing Programs. Continue permanent water conservation programs, resourced with staff possessing technical skills and understanding in economics and customer education. Develop relationships with high water users and work with them to develop reduction strategies. Develop incentive-based social marketing programs designed to reduce outdoor water use.

3. Link Water Conservation to Development Approvals. Require all new developments and retrofits of existing buildings use the best available water conservation technologies. Develop mandatory landscaping standards (3.a.2) suited to the Okanagan's climate.

4. Ensure Effective Full Cost Pricing with Volume Based Pricing Structures. Reflect the importance and value of water to promote conservation and ensure equitable access through water rates.

5. Reduce Water System Leakage That Results in Water Loss. Enhance the current leak detection program by identifying priority areas and completing leak detection surveys. Develop a 5 year revolving plan to rectify system leakage.

6. Promote and Ensure the Use of Water Efficient Fixtures. Review existing fixture bylaws to ensure they reflect the latest technology available.

7. Explore and Develop Water Reuse Opportunities. Identify water reuse opportunities within existing city divisions.

b) Is there a target for community water use? If yes describe.

In 1996, the City's water conservation goal was a 20% reduction in overall water use. A 10-year plan that included universal water metering and extensive public education was set into motion. As of 2006, the 20% reduction was achieved despite a 20% increase in population over the same period.

In 2007, City Council adopted a new Water Sustainability Action Plan (3.a.1) that calls for a minimum 15% reduction (over and above the reductions already achieved) in water use by 2012. Question 3 a) outlines the steps to be used to reach the target.

c) Describe how the local government is contributing to the reduction of water use (include details of initiatives).

The Water Sustainability Action Plan (3.a.1) calls for the enhancement of existing initiatives and implementation of new initiatives. Because of Kelowna's unique climate, summer water use can be five times higher than

winter use – almost entirely due to irrigation. Since 1996, the water utility has worked with its customers using innovative approaches to reduce residential irrigation.

Kelowna's high water use is attributed to the hot, dry climate; poor soil conditions for growing turf; extensive use of automatic irrigation systems (a high percentage of which were improperly installed, poorly maintained, and highly inefficient); and affluent neighborhoods with extensive landscaping not suited to local conditions. Several initiatives have been implemented to address these factors:

- **Soil Ammendmant Program:** a cost-shared program where participating residents top-dressed their lawns with compost to aid in moisture retention, achieving an average 25% reduction in outdoor water use (3.c.1)
- **Free Irrigation System Assessments:** Staff visit homeowners to provide irrigation system and landscaping audits. The customer receives a report outlining upgrapes/repairs that can be made to improve water efficiency (3.c.1).
- **Target high water users:** Water meter data is analysed monthly. Customers are contacted if a problem is noticed. In many cases staff visit the cutomer to assist in finding the reason for the high water use.
- **Alternative Lawn Care Practices:** Some traditional lawn care practices, such as excessive use of nitrogen fertilizer, result in high water use. The Water Conservation program has cost-shared programs in which residents can install drought tolerant grass, or apply fertilizer alternatives such as compost tea (3.c.2).
- **Public Outreach/Education:** Conservation information is available through the water utility's Water Smart program, which produces brochures and maintains a web site (3.c.3). Staff attend public events and make presentations at public schools.
- **Landscape and Irrigation Standards:** The utility realized that as new development occurred, certain patterns that lead to water inefficiencies were repeated. The utility worked with local stakeholders to develop landscape and irrigation standards to address these inefficiencies (3.a.2) and are working towards implementing these standards as a bylaw.

d) What are the estimated water use reductions that have resulted from local government initiatives?

The Utility has seen a 20% reduction in water use since 1998, despite a 20% increase in population over the same period.

e) Describe the local government's water metering program and include details of water utility rates.

The City of Kelowna Water Utility began installing residential water meters in 1996. Prior to this only commercial and multi-family accounts were metered. User-pay rates were introduced in 1998 and at the time consisted of a monthly flat rate, plus a per-cubic meter charge for water consumption. In 2005, the Utility recognized a relatively small portion of the residential population used a disproportionate amount of water, especially in summer months. Consequently, water rates changed to an inclining block system, which consists of a fixed monthly charge plus a per-cubic meter charge that increases as a customer passes certain thresholds). The 2007 residential water rate is:

- Service Charge \$6.22 per month
- Consumption Charge First 30 Cubic Metres (0-30 per month): \$0.23

- Next 50 Cubic Metres (30-80 per month): \$0.304
- Next 45 Cubic Metres (80 - 125 per month): \$0.46
- Consumption in excess of 125 Cubic Metres: \$0.92

Complete 2007 water rates, including commercial and multi-family, are outlined in the 2007 Water Regulation Bylaw (3.e.1).

Every year the Water Utility does a comprehensive rate review to ensure that water rates: 1) are equitable; and 2) promote the efficient use of water.

#### **4. Building Seniors-Friendly and Disability-Friendly Communities**

a) Please describe how the local government is helping to create a seniors and disability-friendly community.

Kelowna has numerous policies and bylaws to help create a seniors and disability friendly community. Chapter 8 of Kelowna's OCP (4.a.1) outlines affordable and special needs housing policies, while Chapter 17 outlines accessibility guidelines and senior policies. The City's Strategic Plan (4.a.2) has action items including "develop and support programs that address and enjoy the energies of seniors" (note: the Strategic Plan includes operational work plans with performance measures which are reviewed annually). In addition, in 1998 Kelowna re-wrote the Zoning Bylaw (4.a.3) to allow a mix of housing forms, health care and daycare for adults or children in most residential and commercial zones.

The City has worked with the Central Okanagan Access Awareness Team (4.a.4) and other stakeholders on disability issues for nearly 20 years. In addition, an Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities, comprised of people with disabilities, reports to Council. Working with these 2 groups, the City has increased accessibility at City Facilities such as the airport, library, aquatic centres, recreation facilities, linear parks, arenas, and parkades. Further, the City has adopted Guidelines for Accessibility in Outdoor Spaces (4.a.5) to increase accessible design of public and private developments.

Finally in 2006, City Council adopted a Seniors Services Strategy (4.a.6) to address the increasing population of seniors and decisions related to the future delivery of seniors programs and services. The City is systematically implementing the recommendations outlined in the Strategy.

b) Please describe how the local government is ensuring that community amenities, public spaces, services and buildings are accessible to seniors and people with disabilities.

The BC Building Code has some of the highest standards for accessibility in Canada and is strictly followed by the City. To complement the Code, the City's Guidelines for Accessibility in Outdoor Spaces (4.a.5) create safer and more accessible communities for pedestrians at all levels of ability. The help staff identify corrective actions for problem areas and ensure new development is fully accessible. Further, in reviewing housing developments, adaptable design is promoted (i.e. universally accessible).

A key example of applying policy to action, includes the detailed design of a new major aquatic and recreation facility currently under construction in Kelowna. The City consulted broadly with the Central Okanagan Access Awareness Team, and Seniors groups, and have compiled a detailed description of all amenities appropriate for these groups (4.b.1).

c) Please describe how the local government is enabling increased mobility of seniors and people with

disabilities.

The Senior Services Strategy (4.a.6), adopted in 2006 provides a series of recommendations to guide future service delivery and facility development. One of the recommendations is that in future services for seniors be integrated into multi-age recreation facilities, which further continues the involvement of seniors with, and contribution to, the larger community.

In an effort to encourage and support recreational and educational opportunities for those 50 years and over, the City of Kelowna's Recreation, Parks and Cultural Services Department oversees the operations of three seniors centres working in partnership with three separate Senior Citizens Societies (4.c.1). The Water Street Senior Centre, the Rutland Senior Centre and the Mission Activity Centre provide a variety of programs and services for seniors in the areas of fitness and sport, crafts and hobbies, music and dance, health and wellness, computers, art, games and general learning.

The Society for Learning in Retirement (4.c.2), a not for profit organization dedicated to providing meaningful lifelong learning and activities for seniors, are provided office and classroom spaces in City owned facilities.

Kelowna designed the Snow Busters program (4.c.3) to encourage residents to be neighbourly and help seniors or those with a disability keep their sidewalks free of snow and ice. Many seniors and those with disability are afraid of falling which leads them to restrict their activities reducing their mobility during the winter. Each year nominated Snow Busters are eligible to win a \$500 travel voucher.

The City's Kick Start initiative to get the community more active, has a portion of its website dedicated to Seniors and physical activity (4.c.4). While Sport and Recreation Kelowna offers 155 separate programs providing 27,000 annual hours of services to persons with a disability (4.c.5) some of which the City offers in partnership with Community Living British Columbia.

Finally, a Master Sidealk Plan with an annual budget (2007) of \$700,000 continually improves sidewalks, including improvements for seniors, scooters, etc (4.c.6).

d) Please describe how the local government is ensuring community affordability for all residents, including seniors and people with disabilities.

As outlined previously, the City's OCP (4.a.1) outlines policy for both affordable housing and special needs facilities. In addition, the City works with a Housing Committee that reports to City Council on housing affordability issues.

As available research confirms an overwhelming need for rental housing that low income households within Kelowna can afford, the City has developed grants and waives development cost charges for new non-profit rental housing to encourage the development of affordable housing (4.d.1). Senior housing options are made available in the Seniors Housing Inventory(4.d.2).

Presently, the City is working with several sites involving a no-cost contribution of City-owned land to provide affordable housing in partnership with non-profit agencies and senior levels of government to create affordable housing for seniors, people with disabilities, families and those at risk of homelessness (4.d.3). Most recently on March 19, 2008 the City signed an MOU with the province to expedite the municipal approval process for up to 140 new supportive housing units on three city-owned sites to be built by 2010.

Recreation programs run by the City are affordable and can be made attainable to all income groups. A unique Disability Pass (4.d.4) for all persons with disabilities is available for sport and recreation programs. In

In addition, facility memberships and program coupons (4.d.5) to recreation and sport facilities are offered at reduced rates to the financially disadvantaged. Four municipal facilities are leased to senior societies at no charge, providing 120,000 annual visits. In addition, the City pays for maintenance and administrative expenses at these facilities.

In addition to City programs, Kelowna also ensures that major Recreation and Sport partners who deliver programs and operate City owned facilities on behalf of the City, also provide for accessibility. A key example is the Central Okanagan YMCA-YWCA, (4.d.6) who manage the Athans Aquatic Centre. The contract obligates the Y to provide financial assistance to those with Disabilities and Seniors.

**5. Extent to which Community is Advancing the ActNow BC Principle of Being More Physically Active**

a) Has the nominee developed a specific plan/strategy or integrated strategies within existing plans, which aims to increase physical activity within the community? If yes please describe highlights.

In response to the province's Active Communities Challenge, the City created a new well funded division, called KickStart (5.a.1). KickStart is a community driven strategy focused on creating an awareness of the benefits of physical activity. It is part of a 5 year program focused on the ActNow BC goal of increasing physical activity in Kelowna by 20% by 2010.

Currently in its third year of a five year Strategic Plan (5.a.2), the KickStart strategy has five thrusts toward the achievement of the target including: optimize internal effectiveness; build brand and awareness; KickStart inactive Kelowna citizens; outreach into neighbourhoods; and sustain active culture.

Part of the success of the KickStart initiative is due to the partnership between the City of Kelowna and the Regional District of Central Okanagan as well as a network of community partners. These partnership programs include Sport and Recreation, the YMCA-YWCA, the Boys and Girls Club, Hearts @ Work, School District #23, and several local businesses including iQuest, London Dugs, Save-on-Foods, and Sun FM Radio Station (5.a.3). Research has shown that most Active Community models to date rely heavily on restructuring of what is currently happening in existing organizations and recreation departments. This model, however, only provides support to those who may decide to get active. The innovative KickStart initiative recognizes internal change is necessary and encourages incremental achievable improvements for a much broader community.

To assess the success of the KickStart program, each January, an extensive IPSOS Reid survey is completed which indicates the physical activity levels of Kelowna citizens. The survey tracks progress and directs adaptations ensure success.

Recently Strategic Directions for 2008-2010 (5.a.4) were developed and provide objectives and actions for success to meet the following targets: Neighbourhood Engagement; Community Education and Awareness; Target Populations; and Integration.

Finally, the office headquarters were strategically placed in a 'storefront' in a prominent shopping mall adjacent to a number of Interior Health Authority offices and clinics.

b) Please describe how the local government is increasing opportunities for physical activity throughout the community (include details of initiatives).

Together with its community partners, the KickStart initiative offers a plethora of programs (5.b.1) to engage physical activity, including:

- KickStart Steps Out - a web-based independent walking program with 4,000 current subscribers.
- Stairway to Health - a sign prompt program to encourage the use of stairs instead of elevators are strategically located in over 200 buildings in Kelowna.
- KickStart Active Workplace – The Active Workplace (5.b.2) program, launched April 1, 2008, has already attracted more than 12 businesses with an impact of more than 1000 people, and has objectives to involve 10 times that amount..
- Digital Mapping - Comprehensive digital mapping of all recreation and sports facilities, parks, school playgrounds, tennis courts, sportsfields, skateboard parks, and bicycle routes provides easy wayfinding for residents (5.b.3).

The City schedules more than 20,000 hours annually to outdoor community & sports groups on sportsfields, ball diamonds & stadiums. It also includes annual scheduling of more than 15,000 hours per year to community and sports groups in arenas and swimming pools and more than 8,000 hours of public fitness & exercise centres.

Further, the City's TDM program provides numerous initiatives such as Bike to Work Week and Walk to School Week to get people active and out of their vehicles (5.b.4). The Rails with Trails project (5.b.5), scheduled to be opened this Spring provides a safe, scenic pathway for multiple physical transportation modes.

The City, Regional District of Central Okanagan and BC Parks are developing a Central Okanagan Mountain Bike Strategy (5.b.6) to improve access to parks and green spaces. This effort will contribute significantly to healthy active lifestyles, particularly among young adults and teenagers seeking new and innovative activities..

Finally, in addition to fourteen different linear parks already provided, the City is also in the process of developing a Linear Park Master Plan which has ambitious plans for the future.

c) Has the community developed and begun implementing either a pedestrian masterplan or a strategy for enhancing pedestrian linkages within its OCP? If yes, please describe highlights. If no, please describe other initiatives designed to enhance community walkability and improve access to parks and green spaces.

Chapter 12 of the Kelowna's Official Community Plan (5.c.1) outlines numerous pedestrian initiative policies including:

- Providing facilities, information and promotion to encourage walking and to assist in achieving a doubling of commuter walking trips.
- Encourage the development of pedestrian routes to link all major open spaces, parks, schools and other public institutions and large activity areas.
- Provide facilities to encourage increased walking trips.
- Maintain pedestrian accessibility across all four legs of intersections within Urban Centres.

Kelowna's Strategic Plan (5.c.2) (which includes performance measures, benchmarks, and multi-year budgets to support implementation) also outlines policy to provide infrastructure that keep pace with population growth; and to develop and enhance recreation and awareness programs that promote the benefits of health and wellness initiatives including recreational activities, walking, cycling and community activities.

Numerous other initiatives have been designed to enhance community walkability and improve access to parks and green spaces including:

- Sidewalk Master Plan (5.c.3) – Over three-quarters of residents indicated that if they wanted to reduce automobile reliance, they would add more sidewalks. The Sidewalk Master Plan recommends actions that can be taken to enhance Kelowna's pedestrian environment.
- Linear Park Master Plan (5.b.5) – as mentioned previously, the Linear Park Master Plan will provide new linear park opportunities in addition to those already provided.
- Rails with Trails Feasibility Study (5.b.4) – the first stretch of this study becomes a reality this Spring, with ultimate plans to extend the trail from the Downtown Cultural District to UBC-Okanagan.

d) Does the applicant participate in ActNow BC programs?

Yes       No

If yes, please explain

The KickStart program is directly linked to ActNow BC. Kelowna has hosted a number of events in the past 2 years at which Minister Hogg as actively participated.

ActNow BC has provided pedometers which KickStart distribute to local citizens used for the Steps Out Program. In addition, the The Steps Out program utilizes the same computer software for website tracking.

The ActNow BC brand and logo are prominently displayed in KickStart materials, brochures, flyers, website and most marketing materials.

Finally, there is regular communications between KickStart staff and ActNow BC staff, and its partners including BCRPA, UBCM Healthy Communities, BC Healthy Living Alliance and others.

## **6. Other**

Please use this space to provide any additional highlights of recent actions that have resulted in greener and healthier outcomes in the community and which would help reviewers assess your nomination.

Over the past year, Kelowna has initiated numerous other green and healthy initiatives including:

- OCP Changes: A Mission Creek Aquatic Habitat Compensation Bank (6.1) was established to compensate for unavoidable losses to aquatic habitat. The Mission Creek Restoration Plan directs the restoration of stream channel and corridor characteristics to maximize aquatic and ecosystem benefits. Further, the establishment of the Mission Creek Aquatic Habitat Restoration Fund will assist in implementing the restoration.
- Pesticide Bylaw: Council endorsed a Pesticide bylaw (6.2) which will come into effect in 2009. The bylaw

will restrict the use of cosmetic, non-essential pesticides partnered with a comprehensive “Be Pesticide free” education campaign, with an exception for certified applicators to continue to use pesticides.

- Sustainability Action Group: Council endorsed several of the group’s short term recommendations (6.3) reflecting the fact the City will need to “put its own house in order” before attempting to further influence the actions of other players such as developers, builders, home owners and residents.
- Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI): The recently completed SEI identifies remnants of rare and fragile terrestrial ecosystems and encourages land-use decisions that will ensure the continued integrity of these ecosystems.
- Wetland Inventory Mapping (WIM): In partnership with Duck’s Unlimited and the Okanagan Basin Water Board, the nearly completed WIM modified the Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping (SHIM) methodology to accurately identify, inventory and locate area wetlands. This project is the first of its kind in the Province.
- Living Greener (6.4): Terasen Gas and Fortis BC joined the partners on calendar and media promotions. In addition, nearly 100 businesses attended the Working Greener Workshop (6.5) to learn how they can help create a more sustainable Okanagan.
- Automated Curbside Residential Waste Collection: The City is working with neighbouring municipalities and districts to implement regional automated collection. This program will reduce GHG in the region by over 15,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e, while providing better customer service and healthier work environments.
- Mayor’s Youth Forum on Parks and Open Spaces (6.6): The input Council received from youth will be incorporated into future parks planning.

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#### **D. Supporting Documentation**

It is highly recommended that nominations are submitted with supporting documentation that demonstrates how the local government’s initiatives address the selection criteria. If applicable, please list the supporting documentation that will be submitted with the applications:

Please email completed Nomination Forms and supporting documentation to: [infra@gov.bc.ca](mailto:infra@gov.bc.ca)

Hardcopies can be mailed to: Ministry of Community Services  
Infrastructure and Finance Division  
PO Box 9838 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9T1

**To complete the nomination process you must sign and mail the Certification Form to the address above.** By signing the Certification Form you are certifying that the information contained in this nomination is to the best of your knowledge correct and complete. Nominations are not eligible for assessment until the Certification Form is received by the Ministry. The Certification Form can be downloaded from <http://www.greencityawards.gov.bc.ca/>