

FCC Eco-Roundtable #1

Topic: What is the role of the Community Association in reducing the Ecological Footprint of Calgarians?

Scarboro Community Hall

April 2, 2008 7-9pm

Attendees

Aimee Pugao	City / FCC volunteer
Andrew Stiles	Bowness
Bob Lyon	Huntington Hills
Bob van Wegen	FCC Planner
Brett Aubrey	Wildwood
Brian Vanvliet	Wildwood
Caroline Bartel	Cambrian Heights
Chris Bernardi	Mid-Sun
Dagmar Graham	Valley Ridge
Dan Mitenko	Chinook Park Kevin Grove Eagle Ridge
David Burns	Wildwood
Lauren Mangion	Conscious Home
Lauren Mattiussi	City / FCC volunteer
Leslie Evans	FCC Exec Director
Marilyn Williams	Cliff Bungalow Mission
Mary Boyes	Landscape Consultant
Peter Atkinson	Cliff Bungalow Mission
Rick Williams	Cliff Bungalow Mission
Rita Lawton	West Springs/Cougar Ridge
Vivian Eaton	Citadel
Will Fong	West Springs/Cougar Ridge

Minutes

- Cathy Taylor, Community Recreation Coordinator with the City of Calgary opened the Eco-Roundtable by introducing Leslie Evans, Executive Director and Bob van Wegen, Community Planner, both from the FCC.
- Cathy also introduced Will Fong, VP Community Events & Programs from the West Springs/Cougar Ridge Community Association. Will's role was to introduce the concept of the eco-roundtable discussions and work with the FCC and Cathy to organize this first meeting
- Cathy introduced the guest speaker for the evening who was Sue Hayduk, from the City of Calgary's Ecological Footprint Project.
- Individual attendees were then asked to introduce themselves and the CA or organization they were representing, as well as what their interest was in attending the Eco-Roundtable.
- In general, attendees were participating for the following reasons:

- To gain a better understanding of the Footprint concept
- To learn more about initiatives to reduce Calgary's footprint
- To network and learn more about what other CA's are doing or have experienced in the past
- To learn more about how to introduce sustainability into the land development and building processes within their communities and across Calgary
- Will Fong spoke about the process leading-up to this first Eco-Roundtable, emphasizing the importance of CA's working together and learning from each other to make greater progress across Calgary
- Bob and Leslie expressed the FCC's support for the Eco-Roundtable initiative and explained the role of the FCC in facilitating the Eco-Roundtable program and their hope that the discussions within the Eco-Roundtable may lead to collaborative actions in the future. They also expressed thanks to the Scarboro CA for the use of the Hall, as well as Cathy Taylor and the City of Calgary for the food & drink, and facilitation of the discussion
- **Ecological Footprint Project presentation by Sue Hayduk**
 - Sue presented a powerpoint presentation outlining the Ecological Footprint Project and its priorities for the coming years. The presentation will be available online soon; a follow-up note will be sent.
 - The Ecological Footprint Project is aimed at raising awareness amongst Calgarians of the issues surrounding our current footprint size, and the need to take action to reduce it.
 - Sue presented the concept of ecological footprint, explaining that their focus is on the various consumption factors up-front rather than the waste reduction activities such as recycling.
 - Sue presented various statistics, all of which pointed to the fact that Canadians, and Calgarians in particular are leaving significantly larger footprints than the remaining global population. Calgary was listed as having the largest footprint of any major Canadian City.
 - It was clear from the discussion and questions that the math behind the footprint calculations was not 100% clear to everyone and that additional follow-up would be necessary to ensure that everyone had the same understanding of how the various statistics were calculated, and how to interpret them.
 - A few questions were asked about recycling and composting, and how those actions affect the footprint calculations used by The City. Sue explained that the calculations for Footprint used by the City focus specifically on consumption measurements, whereas activities like recycling and composting affect the environment's capacity to support our footprint, but do not affect the size of the footprint per se.

- Based on the research done by the City of Calgary, Energy consumption represented over half of all the contributions to our large footprint, indicating that a priority should be placed on reducing Calgarians' *household* energy consumption.
 - Looking at Calgary's footprint, Energy consumption contributed 66% while the next largest contributor, Crop Land, accounted for only 14% of the footprint.
- The City is looking at 6 key indicators to measure whether our footprint is trending smaller or bigger:
 - Energy
 - Waste
 - Water
 - Biodiversity
 - Planning
 - Infrastructure
- Sue explained that the Ecological Footprint Project had direct linkages back to the work done under the ImagineCALGARY initiative (<http://www.imaginecalgary.ca>), with this Footprint project aimed directly at the sustainability & ecological goals/strategies outline in the ImagineCALGARY plan.
 - Calgary City Council has adopted the ImagineCALGARY plans and lists the support of its environmental vision as a key priority for the City.
 - Dagmar Graham from Valley Ridge described the efforts being made with the City's construction of their new Fire Hall to meet LEED gold standards for Green building (<http://www.cagbc.org/leed/initiative/index.htm>)
- Sue described the organization of the Ecological Footprint Project Team as being limited to a handful of staff at the moment. They are preparing for a Calgary-wide promotional campaign to coincide with Earth Day. See attached.



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- **Roundtable Discussion**

- The discussion in general fell into two categories: construction and outreach
- Under construction, there was discussion from the Cliff Bungalow CA about the challenges of introducing stronger requirements for sustainability into the planning and permitting process for new construction.

- Caroline Bartel from Cambrian Heights described a comprehensive effort to evaluate what to do with their aging facility. They have engaged the services of engineers from the City of Calgary to evaluate the various changes that could be made to reduce the facility's footprint. The Cambrian Heights CA needs to evaluate various options including gutting the building and re-designing the interior, to demolishing and starting over
 - Bob Lyon from Huntington Hills CA also mentioned the challenges of renovating their community facility due to constraints on capital expenditures
 - Both of these examples represent the challenges that many established CA's will need to address with their existing facilities.
 - There was discussion of the role of CA's in lobbying the City's Planning Commission on steering developers and builders towards more sustainable practices through legislation
 - A comment was made that the building code is managed by the Provincial government
 - There are some builders and developers who are voluntarily taking steps to build more sustainably.
 - Cathy Taylor pointed to an industry initiative called "Built Green (<http://www.builtgreencanada.ca/>) that exists in Alberta
- Under outreach, there was discussion about the various community events & communication efforts underway in different communities to raise awareness amongst their members
 - A question was asked about the extent to which sustainability and ecological footprint are part of the Alberta school curriculum. Alberta has incorporated this topic into the curriculum in recent years
 - Various communities are incorporating electronics recycling into their community events. There are a number of companies in Calgary that are willing to provide collection of unwanted electronics for recycling (<http://www.albertarecycling.ca>)
 - Discovery Ridge is working with Project Porchlight to distribute CF light bulbs in their community. Their website is <http://www.projectporchlight.com/calgary-alberta>
 - Some communities publish environmental information into their newsletters including recommended tips & actions to take around the home to reduce their footprint
 - Similarly, a listing of workshops and other events in Calgary relating to ecological footprint and sustainability should be established to keep CA members informed of them

- It was suggested that a mechanism for sharing information about community-based initiatives would be helpful, as well as maintaining a repository of newsletter content that CA's could re-publish in their respective newsletters
- Leslie from the FCC mentioned that the FCC would be willing to publish information about community ecological events and ideas in Engage
- Will Fong introduced Lauren Mangion from Conscious Home (<http://www.conscioushome.ca>), who is working with REAP Calgary (<http://www.reapcalgary.com/>) to pilot homeowner workshops through the West Springs/Cougar Ridge CA in June.
 - There will be four workshops conducted, covering 4 broad topics:
 - Toxicity in the Home
 - Waste Reduction
 - Water & Energy
 - Green Procurement
 - The workshops will be offered through the CA, and members can sign-up for individual workshops or the entire series of four.
 - Will and Lauren will be documenting the results of the pilot and would be willing to present the results at a future Eco-Roundtable.

- **Actions & Next Steps**

- The FCC will establish a webpage where these minutes and other material relevant to the Eco-Roundtable series can be accessed
- Cathy Taylor introduced the need for volunteers from the audience to serve on a steering committee for the Eco-Roundtable program. The Steering Committee will be responsible for:
 - Determining the topics/format for future Eco-Roundtables
 - Identifying a location to host future Eco-Roundtables
 - Working with the FCC to promote and handle registrations
- 4 volunteers were identified:
 - Brett Aubrey (Wildwood resident)
 - Caroline Bartel (Cambrian Heights CA)
 - Holly Spero (Northern Hills CA)

- Will Fong (West Springs/Cougar Ridge CA)
- Wildwood CA has volunteered the use of their facility for the next Eco-Roundtable
- The Steering Committee will meet in the coming weeks to plan the topic for the next Eco-Roundtable, and schedule a date