

# REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 03 NOVEMBER, 2010

# SUBJECT TOWNS FOR TOMORROW AND GAS TAX AGREEMENT GRANTS UPDATE

## **ISSUE**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on two major grant programs currently in progress:

- Towns for Tomorrow
- Gas Tax Agreement

## **BACKGROUND**

During the first week of October 2010, a new round of funding was announced for the Towns for Tomorrow and Gas Tax Agreement grant programs. Highlights of each program are as follows:

## Towns for Tomorrow:

PARAMEIER	PROJECT TYPE			
Applicant Funding	The CRD can submit one application for a settlement area with a population of 15,000 or less within an electoral area.  For communities of less than 5,000 people, funding covers up to 80% of costs to a maximum of \$400,000  For communities of 5,000 to 15,000 people, funding covers up to 75% of costs to a maximum of \$375,000  Matching funds can include: GTA- CWF¹, borrowing, reserve funds, regional district unconditional grant, and other sources			
Capital Project Categories	Cultural     Environmental Energy Improvement     Projects     Local Road	ornmental Energy Improvement  Protective and emergency services  Public Transit  Recreation  Wastewater  Water		<ul> <li>Wastewater</li> </ul>
Project Features	<ul> <li>Construction, renewal, expansion or material enhancement of community public infrastructure by March 31, 2013 and not started prior to application.</li> <li>To be owned, operated and maintained by the CRD</li> <li>Supported by a CRD Board resolution</li> <li>Compliant with: BC planning practices and guidelines, federal and provincial legislation</li> </ul>			
Costs	ELIGIBLE: Design and Engineering (includes committed costs provided that construction has not started) Interim borrowing Applicant workforce if used for project construction Capacity building (up to 10% of total eligible costs). Relates to development of transferable knowledge and must be directly linked to the project's physical infrastructure (e.g.: integration of demand management infrastructure such as water conservation, energy efficiency. See details on page 6 of the program guide.)		INELIGIBLE  • Administra	ative overhead
Application Deadline	January 14, 2011			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> GTA-CWF: Gas Tax Agreement Community Works Fund

## Gas Tax Agreement:

The grant program structure allows a total of 4 grant applications from the CRD. In addition, the CRD will participate in a regional working group to determine, in collaboration with UBCM and provincial government representatives, the best use of the forthcoming Regional Significant Project (RSP) fund allocation. A process for determining the best project opportunities in the CRD is under development. Key information related to these opportunities is summarized in the chart below:

**CHART 1: Project Funding Opportunities** 

PART	PROJECT TYPE	FUNDING AMOUNT	APPLIN QUOTA	DEADLINE
RSP: Regionally Significant Projects (RSP)	Funding allocated to the CRD for investment in one or more regionally significant projects. Project decision to be made by a CRD/UBCM/Provincial working group.	\$18,552,747	Not Applicable	9/30/2012
General Strategic Priorities Fund (GSPF)	For large-scale capital projects that create regional impact and involve inter-jurisdictional co-operation. Projects must meet criteria in the Gas Tax Agreement Schedules A and B ( See Appendix 2)	Up to 100% of eligible expenses	<del>1</del> 2	4/29/2011
Innovation Fund (IF)	For capital projects that demonstrate innovative ways of achieving GTA outcomes, generate benefits that far outweigh costs, and offer potential to be replicated elsewhere. Projects must meet criteria in GTA Schedules A and B (see Appendix 2).	Up to 100% of eligible expenses	1	4/29/2011
Integrated Community Sustainability Planning (ICSP)	For planning and capacity building projects that apply ICS planning elements (involve long-term thinking, broad scope, integration and collaboration) and facilitate achievement of community sustainability goals. Projects must meet criteria in GTA Schedules A and B (see Appendix 2)	Up to 100% of eligible expenses	2	4/29/2011
Total Remainin	g Application Opportunities		3	

NOTE: Applications guides and forms for accessing GTA funds are here: http://ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/gas-tax-fund/program.html

#### **IMPLICATIONS**

Given the limited number of applications allowed for these grant programs, the CRD needs to have a systematic, inclusive and objective process by which to identify projects that have the greatest potential for success in qualifying for grant funding.

So far, the CRD has launched a process to select a project for the Towns for Tomorrow program using the project qualification 'checklist' in Appendix A. This checklist has been distributed to all CRD departments to collect information on potential projects. The Corporate Leadership Team will use this information to prepare a recommendation on the Towns for Tomorrow "best-fit" project for CRD Board approval. A similar process is being developed to guide project decisions for the Gas Tax Agreement program.

# RECOMMENDATION

That the Electoral Area Services Committee receive this report as an update on CRD's participation in the Towns for Tomorrow and-Gas Tax Agreement grant programs.

Roseline Ferré, B. Comm.

Financial Analyst / Grants Coordinator

Corporate Services

Diana E. Lokken

General Manager, Corporate Servicers

Concurrence

<sup>2</sup> GSPF: The CRD's allotment of 1 application is now committed to the rail and multi-use trail component of the Johnson Street Bridge project (as per the CRD Board's recommendation at the October 13, 2010 meeting, item 5.6(1))

# APPENDIX 1: TOWNS FOR TOMORROW GRANT: CRD Project Selection Guide

#### INTRODUCTION

The provincial *Towns for Tomorrow* (TFT) grant program is now accepting applications for capital projects. The CRD can submit only one application; the maximum funding available is \$400,000. To increase its chances of success in securing TFT funding, the CRD needs to propose a project that will optimize achievement of TFT grant criteria and objectives while also linking to CRD key services and strategic priorities.

This document includes a project qualifying checklist to help the CRD identify a "best-fit" project proposal relative to the application evaluation criteria contained in the TFT application guide<sup>3</sup>. Key grant parameters are summarized in Chart 1 below. If a CRD department wants to explore the merits of pursuing TFT funding for a capital project, completing and submitting this checklist to the Grants Coordinator (<u>rferre@crd.bc.ca</u>) is the first step. All completed checklists will then be reviewed and projects prioritized to assist the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) in recommending the "best-fit" project to the CRD Board for approval.

Interestingly, TFT project categories are broad and similar to the last round of funding, yet the application evaluation criteria, at first glance, appear to favour a narrower scope of projects that reflect key provincial government goals including: reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing environmental health, encouraging physical activity, and building seniors-friendly and disability-friendly communities. Note that the criteria listed are indicated as examples; other key provincial initiatives can be referenced (e.g. literacy, neighbourhoods of learning, etc) to help substantiate the case for a project. The key is to show how the proposed project is a win-win for the province and the CRD.

**CHART 1: TFT Parameters** 

Applicant	The CRD can submit one application for a settlement area with a population of 15,000 or less within an electoral area.		
Funding	For communities of less than 5,000 people, funding covers up to 80% of costs to a maximum of \$400,000  For communities of 5,000 to 15,000 people, funding covers up to 75% of costs to a maximum of \$375,000  Matching funds can include: GTA- CWF <sup>4</sup> , borrowing, reserve funds, regional district unconditional grant, and other sources		
Capital Project Categories	<ul> <li>Cultural</li> <li>Environmental Energy Improvement Projects</li> <li>Local Road</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Protective and emergency services</li> <li>Public Transit</li> <li>Recreation</li> <li>Tourism</li> <li>Wastewater</li> <li>Water</li> </ul>	
Project Features	<ul> <li>Construction, renewal, expansion or material enhancement of community public infrastructure by March 31, 2013 and not started prior to application.</li> <li>To be owned, operated and maintained by the CRD</li> <li>Supported by a CRD Board resolution</li> <li>Compliant with: BC planning practices and guidelines, federal and provincial legislation</li> </ul>		
Costs	ELIGIBLE:  Design and Engineering (includes committed costs provided that construction has not started) Interim borrowing Applicant workforce if used for project construction Capacity building (up to 10% of total eligible costs). Relates to development of transferable knowledge and must be directly linked to the project's physical infrastructure (e.g.: integration of demand management infrastructure such as water conservation, energy efficiency. See details on page 6 of the program guide.)		
Mandatory Documentation	Grant program forms: application, certification, application checklist     Board Resolution     Cost estimates: itemized description, cost per unit of measure, number of units, engineering and contingency costs     Map of project location		
Optional Doc's	See chart in Appendix A		
Deadline	January 14, 2011		

The Towns for Tomorrow program guide is here: http://www.townsfortomorrow.gov.bc.ca/docs/2010\_towns\_for\_tomorrow\_program\_guide.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> GTA-CWF: Gas Tax Agreement Community Works Fund

# **PROJECT QUALIFYING CHECKLIST**

Complete all sections of this checklist if the proposed project fits into the parameters outlined in Chart 1.

BASIC PROJECT	INFORMATION:	
Project Title	STORAGE AND A ST	
Project Description	ANTENNESS. PIPERLESSE	
Project Participating Area	What settlement area will be served?	
	Is the project in the CRD capital plan:	Yes Not yet (e.g. pending referendum or other process)
	This estimated project cost is:	\$
	To date, the following funding is secured for the project list (specify amounts and sources):	• \$ • \$ • \$
Project Cost and Funding	The amount of grant funding that would be requested under this program is:	S (September 1)
	Has the participating area received other grants for capital projects over the last 3 – 5 years? (e.g. federal and provincial)	Yes No If yes, describe briefly (with assistance from Grants Coordinator if required):
Electorate Approval	Which, if any, of the following processes have yet to be implemented in order for the project to proceed:  Electoral Area Director consent  Board Approval  An establishment bylaw or amendment  A loan authorization bylaw	
Project Status	Briefly describe the current status of the project :  • A project definition statement is: Approved Completed In progress Not started • A feasibility analysis is: Approved Completed In progress Not started • Design drawings are: Approved Completed In progress Not started  Comment here on any other work that is in progress:	
Project Timeline	Is it possible for construction to be completed by March 31, 2013:  YES provided construction starts no later than (specify month and year):  NO  The estimated start date for construction is:	

CRITERIA IN PRO	GRAM GUIDE: Indicate which grant program goals the proposed project can help achieve.	YES	NO
GHG emission	Supports a reduction in motor vehicle travel and associated GHG emissions		
reduction	Features energy efficiency and green building principles		
	Uses alternative green energy sources (e.g. geothermal, micro hydro) and integrates energy generation and heat recovery into project design		
	Assists signatory local governments in meeting their BC Climate Action Charter goals (See Appendix B)		
Public and environmental	Brings the community into compliance with health and environmental legislation such as the Drinking Water Protection Act and Environmental Management Act		
health benefits	Ensures community drinking water is clean, safe and protected		
	Reduces resource consumption through conservation of water, re-use of construction materials and smaller building footprints		
	Achieves environmental certification such as Leadership in energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and ISO 14001 Environmental Management System.		
Supports	Provides multi-use recreation facilities that encourage physical activity		
ActNow BC	Improves overall walkability of the community and increases access to parks and green spaces		
principles by	Links travel networks to promote self-propelled travel		
stimulating physical activity	Supports provincial ActNow BC initiatives (See Appendix C)		
Building seniors- friendly and	Provides inclusive, barrier-free facilities and amenities that meet the needs of seniors and people with disabilities		
disability-friendly	Increases access to and effectiveness of a public transit system		
communities	Promotes development of compact and complete communities that enhance mobility and active lifestyle		
	Ensures community affordability (e.g. equitable utility rates, attention to life cycle costs & triple bottom line)		
Subtotal A	Tally the frequency of each response type: YES and NO		

BENEFITS STATEMENTS	IN PROGRAM APPLICATION: relate to the proposed project; these benefits will need to be described in the application.	YES	NO
	Integrated resource management		
	Smart growth (See Appendix D)		
Is it possible to describe	LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)		
how the project aligns	Triple bottom line principles (commitment to environmental, economic, and social well-being)		
with sustainable planning, design construction, and management in terms of the items listed in the next column?	Other:		
	New technology or process		
	New construction process		
Is it possible to describe how the project encourages innovative approaches in terms of the items listed in the next column?	Other: 書書記		

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BENEFITS STATEMENTS	IN PROGRAM APPLICATION: Continued from Page 3	YES	NO
	Reduced resource consumption		
	Reduction in GHG emissions		
Is it possible to describe the environmental benefits and contribution of the project in terms of the items listed in the next column?	Other:		
	Advancing physical activity	П	
	Promoting inclusive and accessible communities		
Is it possible to describe the health and social benefits of the project in terms of the items listed in the next column?	Olher:		
Is it possible to describe ho	w the project improves economic growth?		
Is it possible to describe ho	w the project recognizes the individual identity, history and culture of the community?		
Subtotal B	Tally the frequency of each response type: YES and NO		
TOTAL	Subtotal A plus Subtotal B		<u>in de</u>
What documentation, from application? Please compl	the list provided in the Optional Application Documentation chart in Appendix A on p. 5, could be in- ete the checklist on page 5.	oluded in	ı the
LINK TO KEY SERVICES:  LINK TO STRATEGIC PRI CRD Strategic Plan here: h Climate Action (p. 21) Environmental Protectic Housing (p. 25) Regional Transportatior Waste Management (p. Not Applicable	n (p. 27) 29)		the
Describe how the proposed	project relates to the strategic priorities, if any, selected above.		

# **APPENDIX A: Optional Application Documentation:**

In the chart below, identify which items could be included in the application.

DESCRIPTION	YES	NO
Engineering feasibility study of options along with detailed cost estimates and design criteria, with sufficient details to fully describe the project		
Reports, studies and plans/strategies with respect to community's climate change initiatives such as corporate and community climate change plans		
Letters of support and/or documentation demonstrating support from relevant regulatory agencies such as local Health Authorities, local Chambers of Commerce, Ministry of Environment, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ministry of Transportation, etc.		
Copies of any required federal or provincial licenses, approvals or permits		
Demonstration of how this project incorporates the four pillars of sustainability: society, culture, economy, environment		
Applicable information from project consultation (First Nations, Stakeholder, Public)		
Demonstration of how this project is supported by a long-term plan (e.g. Official Community Plans, Watershed Management Plan, Community energy Plan, Master Water Plan, Liquid Waste Management Plan, Transportation Plan) and innovative by-laws (e.g. Low Flow Fixture By-laws, Well Protection By-laws, Engine Idling By-laws, etc.)		
For new building projects, demonstration that the project will be designed and constructed to meet standards for green buildings (e.g. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – LEED) and energy-efficiency (e.g. 25% better than the Model National Energy Code for Buildings);		
A plan or report summarizing the community's demand management strategies (e.g. water conservation plan, transportation demand management strategy		
Documentation detailing the public and environmental health issues being addressed by the project 9e.g. boil water advisory/order, non-compliance orders)		
Demonstration that the project will comply with construction standards and best practices such as those outlined in the following documents:		
<ul> <li>The Design Guidelines for Rural Residential Community Water Systems (available at: <a href="http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/water_rights/water_utilities/">http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/water_rights/water_utilities/</a>)</li> <li>Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia (available at: <a href="http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/mpp/stormwater/stormwater.html">http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/mpp/stormwater/stormwater.html</a>)</li> <li>Infraguide, that National Guide to Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure (available at: <a href="http://gmf.fcm.ca/infraguide/">http://gmf.fcm.ca/infraguide/</a>)</li> </ul>		
TOTAL ITEMS: Tally the total number of items		

## **APPENDIX B: BC Climate Action Charter Goals**

The charter document is here: http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/ministry/docs/climate\_action\_charter.pdf

An excerpt of the charter that deals with goals is below:

#### (4) The Parties share the common goals of:

- (a) Fostering co-operative inter-governmental relations:
- (b) aiming to reduce GHG emissions, including both their own and those created by others;
- (c) removing legislative, regulatory, policy, or other barriers to taking action on climate change:
- (d) implementing programs, policies, or legislative actions, within their respective jurisdictions, that facilitate reduced GHG emissions, where appropriate;
- (e) encouraging communities that are complete and compact and socially responsive; and
- (f) encouraging infrastructure and a built environment that supports the economic and social needs of the community while minimizing its environmental impact.

#### (5) In order to contribute to reducing GHG emissions:

- (a) Signatory Local Governments agree to develop strategies and take actions to achieve the following goals:
  - (i) being carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2012, recognizing that solid waste facilities regulated under the Environmental Management Act are not included in operations for the purposes of this Charter.
  - (ii) measuring and reporting on their community's GHG emissions profile; and
  - creating complete, compact, more energy efficient rural and urban communities (e.g. foster a built environment that supports a reduction in car dependency and

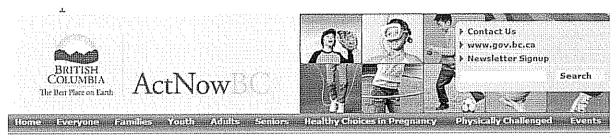
energy use, establish policies and processes that support fast tracking of green development projects, adopt zoning practices that encourage land use patterns that increase density and reduce sprawl.)

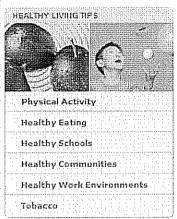
- (b) The Province and the UBCM will support local governments in pursuing these goals, including developing options and actions for local governments to be carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2013.
- (6) The Parties agree that this commitment to working together towards reducing GHG emissions will be implemented through establishing a Joint Provincial-UBCM Green Communities Committee and Green Communities Working Groups that support that Committee, with the following purposes:
  - (a) To develop a range of actions that can affect climate change, including initiatives such as: assessment, taxation, zoning or other regulatory reforms or incentives to encourage land use patterns that promote increased density, smaller lot sizes, encourage mixed uses and reduced GHG emissions; development of GHG reduction targets and strategies, alternative transportation opportunities, policies and processes that support fast-tracking of green development projects, community gardens and urban forestry; and integrated transportation and land use planning:
  - (b) to build local government capacity to plan and implement climate change initiatives;
  - (c) to support local government in taking actions on becoming carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2012, including developing a common approach to determine carbon neutrality for the purposes of this Charter, identifying carbon neutral strategies and actions appropriate for the range of communities in British Columbia and becoming reporting entities under the Climate Registry; and.
  - (d) to share information and explore additional opportunities to support climate change activities, through enhanced collaboration amongst the Parties, and through encouraging and promoting climate change initiatives of individuals and businesses within communities.

#### APPENDIX C: ActNow BC Initiatives

The ACT NOW BC website is here: http://www.actnowbc.ca/home/.

The web screen shot below provides an overview of ACT NOW initiatives.





Healthy Living Todfs
Healthy Living Resources
Measturing Our Success
Media Room
Pariner Links
Actilow BC Store

#### Healthy Living Programs

#### ActionSchools! BC

Action Schools! BC is a best practices model designed to assist schools in creating individualized action plans to promote healthy living. The program contributes to the health of children by integrating physical activity and healthy eating messages into the fabric of the school community, with the goal of providing children with a foundation for life-long healthy living.

#### Active Communities Initiative

This initiative will mobilize and support local governments and partner organizations in promoting healthy lifestyles, increasing physical activity levels amoungst British Columbians and developing supportive community environments.

#### Dial-A-Dietitian

A free nutrition information line for British Columbians.

Greater Vancouver: 604-732-9191 Toll-free in B.C.: 1-800-667-3436

## Making it Happen: Healthy Eating at School

Information and resources for all audiences to help foster a school environment that supports good nutritional habits.

#### Quitnow.ca

An Internet-based quit smoking service available free-of-charge to all British Columbians. Quitnow.ca<sup>-M</sup> is available anytime and creates a personal program for the smoker, depending upon where that person is in their quit attempt.

#### Quitnow by phone: 1-877-455-2233

A confidential tobacco cessation helpline available free-of-charge to residents of British Columbia. The service is open 7 days a week 24 hours a day so that callers can seek help when they need it most.

#### School Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program

A program promoting healthy eating and increasing access to healthier school snacks. The program provides one serving of B.C. grown fruits or vegetables twice a week (14 times during the school year) to children at over one thousand K-12 schools around the province.

## APPENDIX D: Smart Growth BC Principles

SmartGrowthBC Creating more livable communities ationie. 2000 min (#4 Emblections.... 3(0)77(5 About Us Panakame 10 Smart Growth Smart Growth Principles Principles Board Aggrafilian alakan ja Staff "Smart growth" is a collection of land use and development principles that aim to enhance our quality of life, preserve the Issues natural environment, and save money over time. Smart growth principles ensure that growth is fiscally, environmentally and **Annual Reports** socially responsible and recognizes the connections between Estatatatik Stavillajajajiilij development and quality of life, Smart growth enhances and completes communities by placing priority on infill, redevelopment, and densification strategies. The smart growth principles are: 1. Mix land uses. Each neighbourhood has a mixture of homes, retail, business, and recreational opportunities. 2. Build well-designed compact neighbourhoods. Residents can choose to live, work, shop and play in close proximity. People can easily access daily activities, transit is viable, and local businesses are supported. 3. Provide a variety of transportation choices. Neighbourhoods are altractive and have safe infrastructure for walking, cycling and transit, in addition to driving. 4. Create diverse housing apportunities. People in different family types, life stages and income levels can afford a home in the neighbourhood of their choice. 5. Encourage growth in existing communities. Investments in infrastructure (such as roads and schools) are used efficiently, and developments do not take up new land. 6. Preserve open spaces, natural beauty, and environmentally sensitive areas. Development respects natural landscape features and has higher aesthetic, environmental, and financial value. 7. Protect and enhance agricultural lands. A secure and productive land base, such as BC's Agricultural Land Reserve, provides food security, employment, and habitat, and is maintained as an urban containment boundary. 8. Utilize smarter, and cheaper infrastructure and green buildings. Green buildings and other systems can save both money and the environment in the long run. 9. Foster a unique neighbourhood identity. Each community is unique, vibrant, diverse, and inclusive. 10. Plurture engaged citizens. Places belong to those who live, work, and play there. Engaged citizens participate in community life and decision-making.

# APPENDIX 2: Gas Tax Agreement Schedules A and B

Project Categories	Project Examples
Public Transit	Develop or improve public transit system (rapid transit, buses, bus ways, sea-buses, commuter rail, ferries, street cars, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, etc.)
	Implement innovative technologies that support environmental sustainability
Local Roads, Bridges and Tunnels	Local roads, bridges and lunnels that enhance sustainability outcomes
	Rehabilitation of roads, bildges and tunnels that enhance sustainability outcomes
	Implement innovative technologies that support environmental sustainability
Active Transportation Infrastructure	Biko lanes Walking paths and sidewalks
Community Energy	Improving energy systems through the use of water systems to generate hydro
Systems	Community energy systems (wind, solar, thermal, geothermal, etc.)
	Alternative energy systems Alternative energy systems that serve local government
O AND	infrastructure Retrofit local government buildings and infrastructure (e.g. water pumps, street lights, etc.)
Community Energy Systems	Reduce the GHG impact of solid waste (e.g. biogas recovery and conversion of biomass to bio-oil)
(Cont'd)	Fleet vehicle conversion
Degraphy of the Constitution of the Constituti	Implement innovative technologies that support environmental sustainability
Water and Wastewater	Develop or upgrade drinking water systems to improve water quality and reduce water use, increase energy efficiency, and secure water supply in the face of drought
	Develop or upgrade wastewater and storm water systems to improve water quality and improve aquatic habitat
	Implement innovative technologies that support environmental sustainability
	Investments in the enhancement and/or protection of community green space such as streams and natural corridors including habitat protection systems to improve valer quality and improve aquatic habitat
Solid Waste Management	Develop or improve solid waste collection, treatment and disposal in ways that reduce resource use, or encourage recycling and te-use.
on the continuent	Support full cost recovery from users through improved application of user charges
**************************************	Reduce the environmental impact of solid waste (e.g. composting, bio gas recovery)
Copacity	Implement innovative technologies that support environmental sustainability Increase local government capacity to undertake integrated
Building	sustainability planning including: Regional growth strategies
41	Community development plans Community plans
	Community Energy Planning
	Transportation plans Infrastructure development plans
	Liquid waste management plans Solid waste management plans
	Long-term cross-modal transportation plans
	Water conservation/demand management plans Drought management continuency plans
	Air quality plans
	Greenhouse gas reduction plans Energy conservation plans
	implement/plan innovative environmental technologies that
	support sustainability