



Town Talk

OCP Workbook Special Edition

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www.sidney.ca

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OCPizza Night Workbook - Message from Mayor & Council

One of Council's primary strategic priorities for this term is a review and update of the Town of Sidney's Official Community Plan (OCP). An OCP is a Town bylaw that sets out the broad objectives and policies that guide decisions on planning, land use and provision of municipal services in the community.

This key project requires lots of feedback from residents! We are thankful to have such an engaged community and to have had so many responses from previous engagement opportunities, such as our project open house, ideas forum, and recent community design survey. This workbook is another important opportunity for members of the community to get involved in this project (and also gives you an opportunity to receive a gift certificate to one of our amazing local restaurants- more information about this on the first page of the workbook!)

We encourage you to take this opportunity to discuss the following topics with your friends and family! The workbook covers:

PARKS & RECREATION	TRANSPORTATION	HOUSING & AFFORDABILITY
CULTURE & INSTITUTIONS	CLIMATE ACTION	ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Please take a look through some municipal and community updates on these first two pages, and then dive into the workbook. The input from your workbook will inform the development of concepts and policies for the updated OCP. If you have any questions about the project or the workbook, please email ocp@sidney.ca or call 250-655-5428.

Mayor Cliff McNeil-Smith

Town of Sidney Updates

Home Owner Grant Update

Starting in this year, the Province is centralizing the administration of the Home Owner Grant (HOG) program. Eligible residents must apply for the grant directly through the Province. The Town of Sidney can no longer accept Home Owner Grant applications. There is no change to the program eligibility criteria. You are encouraged to apply for the grant, if eligible, as soon as you receive your tax notice in late May. The Province will accept applications online or over the phone.

For more information, please visit: gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant, or call 1-888-355-2700 to speak with an agent.

Emergency Preparedness

Virtual Fire Safety & Emergency Preparedness Presentations:

The Fire Department is offering virtual Fire Safety and Emergency Preparedness presentations! Contact 250-656-2121 or firedept@sidney.ca for more information.

Saanich Peninsula Alert:

Our local notification system will deliver critical alerts to anyone who has registered. Alerts would be sent for events such as earthquakes, tsunami alerts, evacuation notices, or other safety threats.

Sign up at: www.sidney.ca/spa

Reay Creek Park Improvements Survey

As part of the Parks Master Plan process, the Town of Sidney is looking for feedback from users and residents on potential Reay Creek Park improvements. Take the survey and let us know what you think!

www.sidney.ca/reaycreekpark





Message from Cycling Without Age Society

Cycling Without Age Society is back in business! They offer FREE trishaw bike rides to the less able of all ages. CWAS volunteers invite you to get yourself or a loved one out on the road for a bit of fun and fresh air. COVID safety protocols are in place. Sanitized helmets are provided, and you can bring your own blanket to keep warm. Bookings are available seven days a week. All rides are about an hour long, weather permitting. Rides are even offered in the rain! Volunteer pilots are eager to start pedaling. You can ride alone or with someone within your COVID safety bubble.

Reserve your free ride around Sidney at www.cyclingwithoutagesociety.com and "HOP RIGHT IN" the passenger seat. CWAS is a Sidney-based charity and rides are FREE. Donations are always welcome. "Our goal is the wind in your hair and a smile on your face."

COVID-19 Vaccination Update

Registration for the COVID-19 vaccine is now available to everyone 12+ who lives or works in BC. You must register to book a vaccine appointment at a local immunization clinic.

You can register:

- Online: getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca
- By phone: 1-833-838-2323 (translators are available)
- In-person at a Service BC office

Learn more and get the latest updates at: gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated

Fraud Awareness

"Scammed." It's the word no family caregiver wants to hear when it comes to a senior loved one. The growing incidence of senior scams is putting many older adults in harm's way, threatening to strip them of their assets, their independence and their trust. Canada's population of seniors is larger than ever before, making them a prime target for criminals who wish to prey on the vulnerable.

Some top scams involving seniors in Canada to be on the lookout for are:

Telemarketing Fraud: Many reputable Canadian companies use the telephone to disseminate information about their goods and services. Hiding behind anonymity, criminals take advantage of people by sounding like a legitimate business.

Identity Theft: A voice on the phone asks, "Please verify the last three digits of your social insurance number, we believe that there has been fraudulent activity with your credit card." By invoking fear, scammers take full advantage of people to obtain the information need to exploit their identity.

Charity Scams: The scammer calls and asks for a small donation on behalf of their charitable organization. Criminals succeed at deceiving people as they often use names of charities that sound extremely similar to distinguished ones.

Medical Fraud: Qualified healthcare providers are the only ones eligible to provide medical treatment and sell medical supplies. Criminals will often try and offer medical services over the phone and/or by mail. Also, many scammers have been receiving free treatment by assuming someone else's identity and using their health card.

The Prize Scam: Someone calls to tell you that you have won a prize (trip, money, car), but you must submit a payment in order to obtain the prize.

Business/Investment Opportunities: Scammers will call and propose a once in a lifetime opportunity, promising high returns after you send a registration and/or investment payment.

The **Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre** is a great resource that provides information on past and current scams affecting Canadians.

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre Figures:

The impact of COVID-19 fraud, between Mar 6, 2020 and Mar 31, 2021:

- **Canadian reports of COVID-19 fraud:** 17,005
- **Canadian victims of COVID-19 fraud:** 15,198
- **Lost to COVID-19 fraud:** \$7.25 M

The impact of fraud so far this year, as of March 31, 2021:

- **Canadian reports of fraud:** 21,484 (70,948 in 2020)
- **Canadian victims of fraud:** 14,925 (42,093 in 2020)
- **Lost to fraud:** \$50 M (\$108.8 M in 2020)

If you suspect that you or someone else is a victim of identity theft, or fraud, or if you unwillingly provided personal information or financial information, make sure to:

- Step 1 – Contact your local police force and file a report.
- Step 2 – Contact your bank/financial institution and credit card company.
- Step 3 - Contact the two national credit bureaus and place a fraud alert on your credit reports.
Equifax Canada: 1-800-465-7166
Trans Union Canada: 1-877-525-3823
- Step 4 – Always report identity theft and fraud. Contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

For additional information and resources, visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre's website at: antifraudcentre.ca

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WHAT IS THE “OCPizza NIGHT” WORKBOOK?

The Town of Sidney is in the process of updating its Official Community Plan (OCP) to plan for the future of our community. We need to discuss some complex topics, together.

This “OCPizza” Night Workbook will help you have conversations with your family, friends and neighbours on the following topics¹:

PARKS & RECREATION

TRANSPORTATION

HOUSING &
AFFORDABILITY

CULTURE &
INSTITUTIONS

CLIMATE ACTION

ASSETS &
INFRASTRUCTURE

The input from your Workbook will inform the development of concepts and policies for the updated OCP. Fill out the workbook yourself, gather in your bubble or host an “OCPizza” Night online and dive in!

1. note: these are topic areas of the Official Community Plan we haven't engaged on yet. Check out the Community Design Survey at www.sidney.ca/ocp to see what we've come up with for downtown, residential neighbourhoods, environment and industry. Something missing? Share additional ideas at the end of this workbook or email us directly at ocp@sidney.ca.

2. Conditions: To be eligible for one of the 50 group gift certificate rewards, all participants must be residents or business owners in Sidney and be age 14 years or older. Workbooks must be fully completed as per the instructions above and submitted by the deadline. The Town reserves the right to review submissions for eligibility.

HOW DOES IT WORK? (AND WHERE'S THE PIZZA?)

THE WORKBOOK

Fill out the paper copy or visit www.sidney.ca/ocp to access the online Workbook.

1. If you're submitting a group workbook, get your household together or invite your participants (4 or more) and host a meeting via Zoom, Facetime, or another online platform.
2. Choose a note-taker.
3. Review pages of the Background & Recommendations Report noted at the beginning of each section.
4. Review and rate the Goals, Objectives and Policy Directions for each of the topics.
5. Share your feedback for at least 4 topics in the “Your Goals & Ideas” section at the end of the Workbook.

Submit your Workbooks by **June 15th 2021** either:

- *By mail or in-person to:*
Town of Sidney
Municipal Hall
Attn: Corey Newcomb
Long Range Planning
2440 Sidney Avenue
Sidney, BC V8L 1Y7
- *By email to:*
ocp@sidney.ca
- You can scan and email your completed Workbook or complete a form-fillable PDF from www.sidney.ca/ocp

THE PIZZA²

As a thank you, the first 50 hosts who submit completed Workbooks (for groups of 4 or more) will receive a \$40 gift certificate to Mariner Pizza, Woodshed Pizza, or any other Sidney restaurant so you can enjoy your next meal on us, or split your reward into four \$10 gift certificates for each participant.

Just you? Submit your own Workbook and be entered to win one of four \$50 gift cards!

Visit www.sidney.ca/ocp to access:

- Information on the OCP update process
- Additional background material
- Other ways to stay involved!

PARKS & RECREATION

How can Sidney's parks and green spaces better support social, physical and ecological well being?

WHAT WE KNOW

Check out pages 48-51 of the *Background Report & Recommendations Report* available at www.sidney.ca/ocp.

GOALS + OBJECTIVES

Goal: Create a system of parks and recreational spaces that supports social, mental, physical and ecological health.

- **Objective:** Ensure that all Sidney's residents have access to green spaces and parks within a short walk of where they live and work.
- **Objective:** Expand, improve and better connect Sidney's parks to support residents' social connections and mental and physical well-being.
- **Objective:** Improve parks' contribution to the Town's ecological diversity.

LET US KNOW
WHAT YOU THINK!

POLICY DIRECTIONS

- 1. PARKS FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES** | Design and program Sidney's parks system to meet the accessibility and recreational needs of all ages and abilities.
- 2. WSÁNEĆ CULTURE** | Work with local First Nations to incorporate art, culture, history and traditional practices & knowledge of the WSÁNEĆ peoples in Sidney's parks. Where appropriate, include the SENĆOŦEN language for signage and place names.
- 3. PUBLIC WATERFRONT AND BEACHES** | Maintain and, where possible, expand a public waterfront open space network and explore places where additional (or improved) beach access may be appropriate.
- 4. EXPAND REGIONAL TRAILS, PARKS, AND GREEN SPACE AND GREEN SPACE** | Support community and regional parkland acquisition, stewardship programs and regional trail network construction that contributes to the region's beauty, economy, ecological health, and recreational and cultural opportunities.
- 5. LOCAL FOOD SECURITY** | Support local food production, including by: establishing community gardens on public lands in Sidney through an operating agreement with a non-profit organization; considering allowing backyard chickens on lots of sufficient size; and supporting local food sales through farmer's markets and local retail outlets.

YOUR COMMENTS

Level of Support for Parks and Recreation Goals: (please check only one)

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Level of Support for Policy Directions:

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TRANSPORTATION

How can people in Sidney move around in a way that is efficient and healthy, with low environmental impact?

WHAT WE KNOW

Check out pages 60-77 of the *Background Report & Recommendations Report* available at www.sidney.ca/ocp.

GOALS + OBJECTIVES

Goal: Create a transportation system that supports active transportation, efficient movement and low environmental impact.

- **Objective:** Increase the number of trips residents and visitors make by walking, cycling, bus, and other sustainable modes to reduce reliance on driving.
- **Objective:** Ensure that Sidney designs its streets to serve the needs of everyone who uses them, including businesses, residents and visitors.

POLICY DIRECTIONS

1. PRIORITIZE DIFFERENT WAYS OF GETTING AROUND

Prioritize active, sustainable modes of transportation (walking, biking, transit) and accessibility when designing streets and funding transportation infrastructure, rather than cars.

- 2. TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT** | As BC Transit undertakes the Peninsula Local Area Transit Plan in 2021-2022, the Town will encourage transit-oriented development (higher density, mixed use, walkable) around Beacon Avenue, between Fifth Street and Highway 17.

- 3. SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS IN NEW BUILDINGS** | Move beyond vehicle parking requirements and instead allow the transportation needs of buildings to be met through a combination of transportation options, such as carshare vehicles and parking stalls, more secure long-term bicycle parking, electric bike parking, and transit passes.

- 4. MANAGE OUR CURBSIDES** | Adopt a curbside management framework to outline the different ways the Town's curb spaces will be managed, allocated, and prioritized to accommodate different users including parked vehicles, electric vehicle charging stations, commercial deliveries, passenger drop-off/pick-up (e.g., ride-hailing), and active transportation infrastructure.

- 5. 5-MINUTE NEIGHBOURHOODS** | Design neighbourhoods so that most daily needs can be met within a 5 minute walk or bicycle trip.

YOUR COMMENTS

Level of Support for Transportation Goals: (please check only one)

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HOUSING & AFFORDABILITY

What can be done to support diverse and affordable housing types in Sidney?

WHAT WE KNOW

Check out pages 40-47 of the **Background Report & Recommendations Report** available at www.sidney.ca/ocp.

GOALS + OBJECTIVES

Goal: Encourage the development of housing types, tenures and price levels that meet the needs of the whole community.

- **Objective:** Partner with non-profits and private developers to build affordable housing and housing types that are missing but needed in Sidney.
- **Objective:** Develop and strengthen partnerships with developers, non-profit housing providers and community organizations.

POLICY DIRECTIONS

- 1. DIFFERENT TYPES OF HOUSING** | Require that new development applications demonstrate how they are contributing to fulfilling Sidney's housing needs.
- 2. BALANCED NEIGHBOURHOODS** | Work towards increasing the diversity and affordability of housing by offering a range of housing options that fit within existing neighbourhoods.
- 3. RENTAL HOUSING** | Establish policies to protect existing rental housing stock.
- 4. INCENTIVES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING** | Reduce fees and charges and consider municipal tax exemptions for developments that include affordable housing.
- 5. PARTNERSHIPS** | Support and fund public-private-non-profit partnerships to provide non-market or purpose-built rental housing.
- 6. MORE DENSITY IN EXCHANGE FOR AFFORDABILITY** | Increase the number of units allowed on a site in exchange for more affordable housing. This may also occur through relaxation of costly infrastructure, such as reduced parking requirements.

YOUR COMMENTS

Level of Support for Housing & Affordability Goals: (please check only one)

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CULTURE & INSTITUTIONS

How can Sidney/SET,TINES reflect and celebrate the area's cultures and histories? How can we create robust institutions and services that support residents' needs?

WHAT WE KNOW

Check out Sections 12 (Institutional), 15 (Culture) and 16 (Heritage) of **the current Official Community Plan available at <http://www.sidney.ca/Assets/Development+Services/Bylaws/1920+OCP+2017.pdf>**

GOALS + OBJECTIVES

Goal: Reflect, celebrate and support the expression of the area's cultures and histories in Sidney's built environment and landscape.

- **Objective:** Encourage public awareness, interest and support of local cultures and heritage, including that of the WSÁNEĆ Peoples.
- **Objective:** Preserve and enhance heritage resources - and promote new endeavours - in the Town's physical, cultural and natural environment that promote community spirit and identity.
- **Objective:** Ensure Sidney's institutions, services and cultural centres support, reflect and are equitably accessed by all of its residents.

POLICY DIRECTIONS

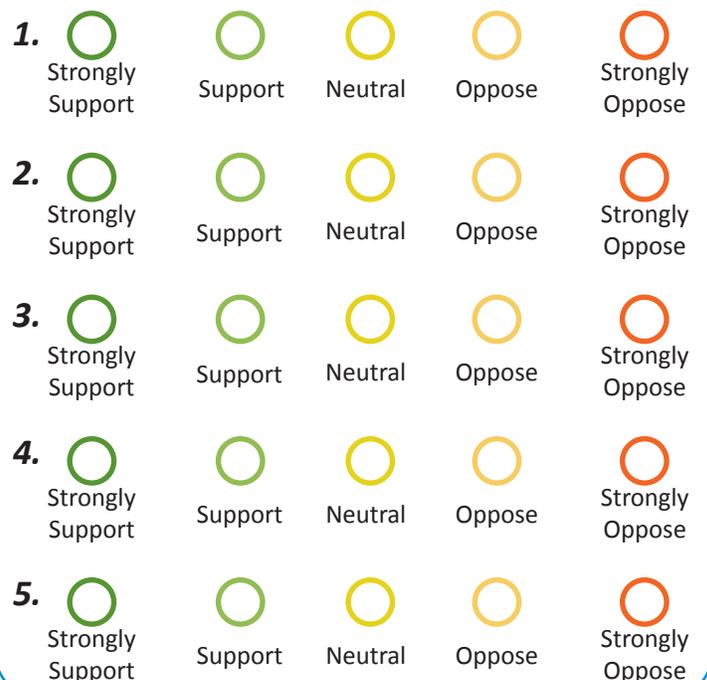
- 1. Public Squares** | Identify and acquire sites for public squares in downtown Sidney to serve as a social, cultural and civic hub for the community, as well as in other key locations in town where people could gather.
- 2. Cultural Spaces** | The Town will invest directly in and/or direct development amenity contributions toward new or upgraded cultural buildings and facilities in Sidney.
- 3. Town Buildings** | Develop a plan for the upgrade and/or replacement of Town-owned buildings (e.g. the municipal hall) to ensure the future needs of the community are met (adequate service provision, accessibility, etc.)
- 4. Cultural Design** | Work with First Nations and cultural organizations to incorporate cultural and historical elements and features into public spaces and building design.
- 5. Balanced Demographic** | Develop policies and invest in assets and infrastructure that support a balanced demographic in Sidney, with a focus on children, youth and elder-friendly features.

YOUR COMMENTS

Level of Support for Culture & Institution Goals: (please check only one)



Level of Support for Policy Directions:



CLIMATE ACTION

Sidney Council declared a climate emergency in March 2020. How should the OCP help to mitigate and adapt to climate change?

WHAT WE KNOW

Check out pages **56-59, 82-87 and Appendix A** of the **Background Report & Recommendations Report available at www.sidney.ca/ocp**.

DRAFT GOALS + OBJECTIVES

Goal: Pursue mitigation and adaptation actions to reduce local and regional emissions that contribute to global climate change and to increase resilience in the face of local climate change-related impacts.

- **Objective:** Significantly reduce community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions with an aim of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 (i.e. emitting no net GHG emissions.)
- **Objective:** Ensure Sidney is resilient to (i.e. can withstand and recover from) the impacts of climate change (such as sea level rise, extreme weather events) by responding to climate-related risks, opportunities and strategies.

POLICY DIRECTIONS

1. GHG REDUCTION TARGETS | Reduce greenhouse gas emissions within Sidney by a minimum of 50% below the 2007 levels by 2030 and 100% by 2050.

2. LOW CARBON BUILDINGS IN NEW CONSTRUCTION
The BC Energy Step Code (a supplement to the BC Building Code) is the primary means through which local governments can reduce energy use in new buildings and reduce GHG emissions. Require that new buildings be energy efficient and that they use low-carbon energy sources (e.g. hydroelectricity) by adopting the BC Energy Step Code. Provide incentives for low-carbon energy sources (e.g. solar panels) to help achieve “net-zero” emission buildings.

3. LOW CARBON EXISTING BUILDINGS | *Existing buildings are the Town’s second-largest greenhouse gas emitter, accounting for 34% of the community’s total emissions in 2018. Transition Sidney’s existing building stock to low-carbon energy systems (e.g. electric heat pumps) over the next 20 to 30 years, by developing support programs and incentives, that align with efforts being undertaken by the Province to accelerate this switch.*

YOUR COMMENTS

Level of Support for Climate Action Goals: (please check only one)

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Level of Support for Policy Directions:

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YOUR COMMENTS

POLICY DIRECTIONS (CONT.)

4. SUPPORT ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) ADOPTION

Transportation is the Town's largest GHG emitter, accounting for 56% of the community's total emissions in 2018. Undertake an Electric Vehicle Strategy for the Town that identifies new construction regulations, programs to support charging in existing buildings, fleet management practices, and corporate and public EV charging investment.

5. MAKE WALKING, BIKING AND TAKING TRANSIT POSSIBLE, EASY AND ATTRACTIVE | Link and align active transportation routes (transit stops, bike lanes, walking paths and sidewalks) with places where people shop or visit on a daily or regular basis (employment centres, higher density residential areas, amenities and services).

6. PARKING MAXIMUMS, NOT MINIMUMS | *Establishing a maximum allowable amount of parking can help prevent excessive parking lot sizes, and reduce paved surfaces that contribute to the heat island effect and stormwater contamination. Consider removing minimum requirements for parking spaces in the parking bylaw and/or initiating parking maximums in certain areas of Town. This move could be completed in specific areas of the Town or for certain types of buildings or units (e.g., removing parking requirements for secondary suites).*

7. WATERCOURSE AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS | Increase the Town's climate resilience by assessing, protecting and restoring and the Town's watercourse and marine ecosystems to become biologically diverse and resilient, including to sea level rise.

8. PUBLIC AWARENESS | Improve community capacity and resilience in advance of and following events by increasing public awareness of climate change, its expected impacts and how the community can prepare.

9. CLIMATE LENS | Apply a climate lens to local government decision making. The application of a "climate lens" can include systematically considering if a decision will directly or indirectly reduce greenhouse gas emissions or make the Town more resilient to the impacts of climate change, including in budgeting.

Level of Support for Policy Directions (cont.):

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INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSETS

How can our infrastructure and assets support improved efficiency and sustainability?

WHAT WE KNOW

Check out pages 78-79 of the **Background Report & Recommendations Report** available at www.sidney.ca/ocp.

GOALS + OBJECTIVES

Goal: Plan, design and maintain the Town's infrastructure and assets to support current and future demands efficiently and sustainably.

- **Objective:** Recognize the role that natural systems (e.g. streams, soils, trees, natural coastlines) play in supporting the Town's servicing needs (e.g. managing rainwater, combating sea level rise and storm surge, protecting from onshore wind) and ensure they continue to do so as Sidney grows.

POLICY DIRECTIONS

- 1. REDUCE LIGHT POLLUTION** | *Traditional street lighting negatively impacts many nocturnal species and reduces our enjoyment of the night sky. Transition street lighting and implement requirements for private lighting standards to LED lighting and full cut-off luminaires designed to avoid light pollution of the night sky.*
- 2. REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND EMISSIONS**
The Town will explore new and developing technologies to improve the efficiency of municipal infrastructure and reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions by the Town. For example, these may include the use of bio-fuels, hybrid vehicles and LED lighting.
- 3. ACCOUNT FOR THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**
Recognize the value of the natural environment and its natural assets and include these as part of the Town's asset management framework. For instance, recognize the role of soils, plants and natural and artificial stormwater management systems plants within the Reay Creek and Mermaid Creek watersheds to improve the management of rainwater.
- 4. ADOPT A GREENSHORES APPROACH TO SHORELINES**
As the risks and impacts of climate change and associated sea level rise increase, we must decide how to protect our shorelines. Where feasible, apply a "Greenhores" approach that uses natural shoreline enhancement techniques (beach nourishment, shoreline vegetation, foreshore boulders, etc.) that bring multiple benefits rather than seawalls that often exacerbate problems elsewhere. (www.Greenhores.ca)

YOUR COMMENTS

Level of Support for Infrastructure & Assets Goals: (please check only one)

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Level of Support for Policy Directions:

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YOUR GOALS & IDEAS

Imagine that it's 20 years down the road and Sidney is healthy, resilient and thriving. What do each of these topic areas look like - and what goals have we achieved for each? How did we get there?

PARKS & RECREATION

TRANSPORTATION

HOUSING & AFFORDABILITY

CULTURE & INSTITUTIONS

CLIMATE ACTION

INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSETS

OTHER GOALS AND IDEAS. WHAT DID WE MISS?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

Let us know who you are*:

(include at least 4 to claim your group reward!)

Name(s):

Address(es):

Email / phone number:

**This information is collected for the administrative and operational functions of the Town of Sidney under section 26 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA). This information will be used and maintained for the purpose it was collected and in accordance with FIPPA. Questions about the collection of personal information may be referred to the Administration Department at 250-656-1139 or at admin@sidney.ca.*

WORKBOOK RATING

How would you rate your experience completing this workbook?



Excellent



Good



Neutral



Poor



Very poor

Let us know why:

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

SIDNEY 2040

Our future by the sea