

Flourishing Communities/ Environmental Stewards:

Integrating Green into Sustainable
Metropolitan Strategies



RBF
RURAL & URBAN
DESIGN STUDIO

The Panel

- **Rob Bennett** – City of Vancouver's Sustainability Group
- **Dana Bourland** – Enterprise Foundation/ Green Communities Initiative
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What is Green Design?



- An approach that encourages a sustainable healthy environment through reduction of development impacts on natural and urban systems

Current Environmental Challenges

- Air Pollution
- Water Pollution
- Global Warming
- Habitat Fragmentation



Link to Conventional Growth Patterns

- Current environmental challenges may, in part, be linked to dispersed patterns of development

Why Green? What are the Benefits?

- Conserve resources
- Protect habitat & species
- Reduce flooding
- Decrease pollution & waste
- Enhance community character
- Retain jobs & attract businesses
- Raise property values



Sustainable, Green Strategies & Goals

- Protect public health
 - Water quality & supply
 - Air quality
 - Waste recycling & management, including toxic wastes
 - Land use & transportation
 - Land preservation
 - Site design



Sustainable, Green Strategies & Goals

- Preserving natural areas
 - Wildlife habitats
 - Wetlands
 - Coastal zones
- Mitigating natural disasters
- Balancing communities' needs
 - Considering transportation, energy, & development
 - Preserving open space & natural resources



Green Design/Relation to Smart Growth

- Smart Growth
 - Preserves open space, farmland, critical environmental areas
 - Mixes our land use
 - Encourages more compact communities
 - Allows transit opportunities, walking, & bicycling

Green Design/Relation to Smart Growth

- Results
 - Shorter & fewer auto trips
 - More efficient use of land & resources
 - Improved air & water quality
 - Preservation of habitat



Examples of Green Design

- Siting of buildings to maximize passive solar use
- Planting native vegetation
- Using recycled materials
- Installing tankless water heaters & other energy efficient appliances
- Using a vegetated roof

Example Green Design Guideline Components

- Sustainable site planning
- Water efficiency
- Energy efficiency
- Conservation of materials & resources
- Indoor environmental quality



How Green is Being Implemented

- National level to local communities
- US Green Building Council LEED Guidelines
- Local ordinances and plans with green provisions, policies & programs to encourage green buildings, and green design guidelines
- Much more...
