

RGS Education and Awareness

Possible Change:

The updated RGS will set clear direction on education and awareness activities that will support and explain the RGS and its sustainability objectives.

Why is education and awareness on the RGS needed?

Education is an essential part of realising the goals of the RGS. Increasing public awareness of the RGS allows for more informed dialogue between decision-makers and the community and will result in a document that is better understood and more accepted. Through the provision of better information on the issues and on the consequences of proposed actions the community will be more aware of the implications of government decisions. Trust between the public and government is strengthened when informed feedback is valued and incorporated into all decisions.

Why is awareness of the RGS important for a sustainable region?

RGS education efforts will promote dialogue and cooperation between local governments, senior levels of government, First Nations, community organisations and the general public. This will help ensure that the need for and benefits of actions and programs to support regional sustainability goals is better understood.

Public input is improved where participants understand all the costs and benefits of decisions. This more thoughtful, informed public consultation improves the quality of government decisions and ensures they are more acceptable to the community.

Implementation is also more likely when everyone has provided input and understood the importance of the policies in planning documents such as the RGS.

How can education and awareness be included in the RGS?

The RGS could include a strategy to improve public awareness of RGS goals and its relationship with other planning documents. The strategy would provide direction to the RDN and member municipalities to encourage the participation of diverse groups in the development and implementation of the RGS. The RGS could establish a process to educate and involve more interest groups, individuals, business leaders, and the wider community.



For more information on this topic please see the discussion papers at www.shapingourfuture.ca