

The Maplewood Community Eco-Industrial Partnership Project

Background and Context

The Maplewood community is a fascinating mix of industrial, commercial, residential and institutional land uses in a spectacular natural setting on the shores of Burrard inlet and the Seymour River. The community has worked hard in recent years to develop a Local Area Plan and other initiatives to create a great community in which to live, work, and play.

There are still a number of publicly and privately-owned undeveloped parcels in Maplewood. There is an opportunity to influence the way in which these lands are developed, and existing lands are re-developed ensuring the future quality of life for local residents, the viability of businesses and jobs, and preservation of the environment.

Making the right decisions for a community is complex; the best answers will come from working together to find creative solutions tailored to the local conditions. It is based on this principle of partnership, that the *Maplewood Community Eco-Industrial Partnership Project* was developed.

Overview of the Project

The project will use the principles of Eco-industrial Networking (EIN) to help find the right solutions for the commercial and industrial development and re-development (see sidebar). The resulting plans will combine rather than isolate the needs of industry, commerce and residents. EIN principles include: resource recycling and sharing, waste reduction; increased efficiency of energy, materials, and land use; and 'greener' buildings and site layouts that will help retain green spaces. At the same time, Sustainable Community Planning principles will help guide the type of future development and ensure that eco-industrial opportunities are reflected in land use patterns.

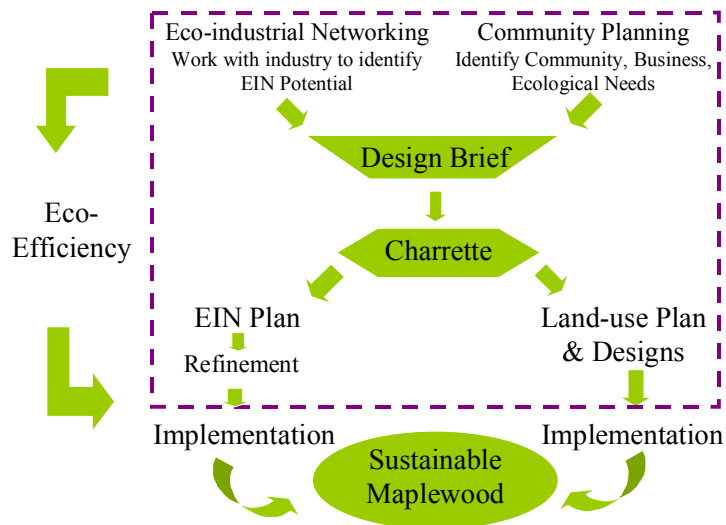
What is Eco-Industrial Networking?

Eco-industrial networking builds relationships among businesses, governments, and the community to achieve better use of resources, such as energy, material, water, capital and infrastructure. Eco-industrial networking supports the creation of a diverse and stable local economy; increases the competitiveness and eco-efficiency of existing businesses and attracts progressive, new businesses to fill identified niches. The combined result is a healthier community and surrounding ecosystem; and a more robust local economy.

Objectives

- Work with all partners (local small and large industries, the District, the GVRD and the Maplewood Community Association) to define unique industrial strategies that meet the social, economic and environmental goals of the community;
- Integrate EIN strategies into community design and planning;
- Produce EIN guidelines, best practices, urban design plans and economic development strategies to guide future development;
- Position Maplewood as a showcase community to support other businesses and community leaders in the areas of sustainable community design and economic development; and

The centrepiece of the project will be a “Design Charrette” (an intense two day design workshop) that will assemble three teams of leading edge professionals to develop an integrated Urban Design/Land Use Plan and Eco-Industrial Networking Plan based on the input received from all stakeholders. This will take place over three days in early 2003. There are several months of work prior to the charrette. The consulting team will work closely with local businesses and the residents of Maplewood to gather information needed for the charrette.



The project (illustrated by the tasks within the box) focuses on the relationships between companies and community. This may also be complemented by eco-efficiency improvements within individual firms. How the plans and strategies will be implemented is an important consideration, even at this stage.

A Unique Project

This is the first time in Canada that a design charrette has been used to integrate sustainable community planning and EIN. This project represents a leading-edge approach that will garner significant public attention and raise the profile of the Maplewood community, the District and The Region. In addition, the lessons learned for the project will be replicable in other communities within the region and, indeed, across North America.

Project Funding

A significant amount of money has already been raised towards the project budget of \$160,000. Contributions from local industry, the District of North Vancouver, the Real Estate Foundation of BC and Industry Canada have been received. In addition, a funding application has been submitted to the Green Municipal Enabling Funds program administered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Who is Involved?

The District of North Vancouver, with involvement from both Environment, Planning, and Engineering staff, is managing this project. The DNV and its partners will be supported by a local consulting team, led by Michael von Hausen Associates, with experience in sustainable community planning and EIN. Local industries, the Community Association, and the funding partners have committed to support the project and will each have an active role to play.

For more information, please contact Ken Bennett, Manager, Environment Services, 604-984-9683, email: kbennett@dnv.org