

Cowichan Valley Regional District votes to filter all its business through a green lens

Mike D'Amour

News Leader Pictorial

The Cowichan Valley Regional District board is about to get about as green as any government body can get.

On Wednesday, directors agreed to a draft plan that would force them to weigh and scrutinize every decision

through an "environmental lens."

That means every proposed development, every bylaw, everything would have to be analyzed for possible effects to the environment.

Sahtlam Director Loren Duncan said the idea's a good one and hopes all buy into a final plan.

"It's certainly a major issue," he said.

The board is looking at adopting the draft

environmental strategy and the 12 Big Ideas for a sustainable valley — a list of suggestions to show how individuals, local government and the community as a whole can tackle sustainable living — and to provide resources to the CVRD Environment Commission to "continue the community conversation process."

The big ideas include things like eating locally whenever possible, supporting

small-scale agriculture and developing a regional agricultural plan.

The CVRD board passed the resolution quickly and with little discussion.

Cowichan Tribes has already embraced the 12 Big Ideas as have members of the public.

North Cowichan Director George Seymour told the board North Cowichan is also on track with environmental plans.



George Seymour:
muni on board