

Sustainability Committee 2008/09 Action Plan

We are pleased to provide the Sustainability Committee's (SC) Action Plan for 2008-2009. The action plan is designed to further integrate sustainability into APEGBC's operations and its members' practices over the next two years. This plan is aligned with APEGBC's 2007 Strategic Service Plan, the Association's operational requirements, the SC's Terms of Reference, and the SC's vision for professional engineers and geoscientists to practice in accordance with the principles of sustainability so that our profession simultaneously enhances our society, economy and environment. The action plan has incorporated APEGBC members' views on the Association's sustainability initiatives, as communicated to us through a recent survey on sustainability in engineering & geoscience practice in BC. A summary of progress made by the SC over the last two years is provided in a separate document entitled 2006-2007 Action Plan Status Report.

Sustainability Survey Results

In 2007, the SC conducted an online survey to solicit feedback from APEGBC's members regarding their views on sustainability in engineering & geoscience practice in BC, the sustainability programs currently being delivered by the Association, and plans for future programs. The results of the survey were reported in Innovation last year, and were used to direct this plan towards the needs and interests of members. The final report describing and interpreting the survey results is attached. Survey participants indicated that they would like the association to focus on the following three key areas:

1. Build effective relationships with government in order to help direct sustainability policies so that:
 - they are based on sound scientific, engineering and geoscience principles; and,
 - they provide the necessary support to enable engineers and geoscientists to bring sustainability principles to the forefront of their practice and thus play a central role in enhancing the well being of society;

2. Educate the public and clients about the importance of sustainability in engineering and geoscience; and
3. Provide information resources (practice guidelines) and technical professional development (workshops, seminars).

Tasks

During 2008 and 2009, the SC will function as described in our TOR, and as recommended by members who responded to the Sustainability Survey by performing the following tasks:

1. Education

The SC will continue to develop programs to expand awareness of sustainability amongst members and the public, and to encourage members to incorporate sustainability considerations in their professional practice. The SC will work with APEGBC staff to deliver professional development seminars to enhance members' sustainability knowledge and skills.

2. Regulation

The SC will continue assisting APEGBC to incorporate sustainability into all programs. These programs include:

- Practice reviews (Phase 2)
- EIT/GIT reporting
- CPD reporting
- Green Building Specialist designation

The SC will work with APEGBC on influencing government to develop scientifically sound sustainability policies, participating in the review of new government regulations and standards as they pertain to sustainability, and will assist with communicating these efforts to the members. The SC will also develop and leverage its partnerships with external organizations (governmental and non-governmental) to achieve the same goals.

3. Communication

The SC will continue its communications programs to disseminate information about sustainability, particularly as it relates to the practice of engineering and

geoscience. In light of the recent survey results we will explore ways of improving the effectiveness of these programs. The main avenues for communication will be as follows:

- APEGBC website
- *Sustainability Now* newsletter
- *Innovation* and *Connections* articles
- Sustainability Award
- Sustainability sessions at APEGBC annual conference
- Sustainability Survey in 2009/2010

4. **Resources**

The SC will continue to develop and deliver - in collaboration with APEGBC staff, appropriate Committees, and relevant external organizations - specific toolkits and guidelines to assist members with incorporating sustainability into their practices (e.g. guidelines for Triple Bottom Line Decision-Making).

5. **APEGBC Support**

The SC will provide input to APEGBC regarding the sustainability of its operations with the goal of having the association lead by example. As an example this may include recommendations for a greenhouse gas policy, or a sustainability review of all member affinity programs.