

Implementing and Monitoring

Possible Change:

The updated RGS will include more detail on how it is to be implemented, and will include a framework for regular public reporting on progress made in moving toward RGS goals.

What is meant by implementation and monitoring?

The Regional Growth Strategy is a policy document that provides direction on how growth is to be managed on a region-wide basis. The RGS policies identify the types of actions required to achieve the eight RGS goals. This means that implementation of the RGS requires the use of other tools and changes to other planning documents like official community plans and zoning bylaws. We can find out the effectiveness of the RGS by monitoring the implementation of these policies. Generally a set of measures are used to track and report on the progress in moving toward the RGS goals.

Why is implementation necessary to realise the goals of the RGS?

As noted above the RGS is a policy document that only provides direction for the actions necessary to achieve the goals related to sustainability. Implementing the growth management policies in the RGS is needed to achieve regional sustainability goals like greenhouse gas emission reductions, preservation of rural resource lands, protection of environmentally sensitive areas and improving mobility options such as transit or cycling. The

implications of not acting on the policies of the RGS are continued low density growth outside of the urban areas which moves the region away from its stated sustainability goals. The RDN Board in its Strategic Plan recognizes that for the vision for a sustainable region to be realized, changes must be made to official community plans followed up by changes to zoning and other land use regulations together with the establishment of incentives and disincentives.

How do we ensure that the RGS goals are being implemented?

There are several possible ways to increase the likelihood that RGS policies will be implemented. The updated RGS could direct official community plans of the RDN and member municipalities to include an explanation of how RDN policies will be implemented. The RGS could include examples of how to implement policies to assist with this requirement. The RGS could include a section on monitoring to require reporting on the progress in moving toward the goals. For each goal, the RGS could identify indicators that measure progress that will be part of a regular reporting system.



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