

What is the Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS)?

- It's a plan for Burnaby's green future!
- The purpose of the ESS is to set directions for environmental protection, stewardship, enhancement, and resilience in the city of Burnaby.
- Together with the recently completed Social Sustainability Strategy (2011) and the award winning Economic Development Strategy (2007), the ESS is the third element in the City's integrated sustainability framework.
- The three interrelated strategies will define how the city can build on its strengths to become even more vibrant, livable, healthy, resilient, and integrated with healthy ecosystems.
- The ESS will lay out a vision, goals and actions that recognize current challenges and opportunities, while providing the flexibility to adapt to changing needs and opportunities.



ESS Steering Committee

- Mayor Derek Corrigan chairs the ESS Steering Committee – a group of 23 recognized leaders from the environmental sectors and the broader community guiding the overall ESS process.
- To learn more about the members of the ESS Steering Committee visit: www.burnaby.ca/ess-sc

ESS Project Timeline



Sustainability

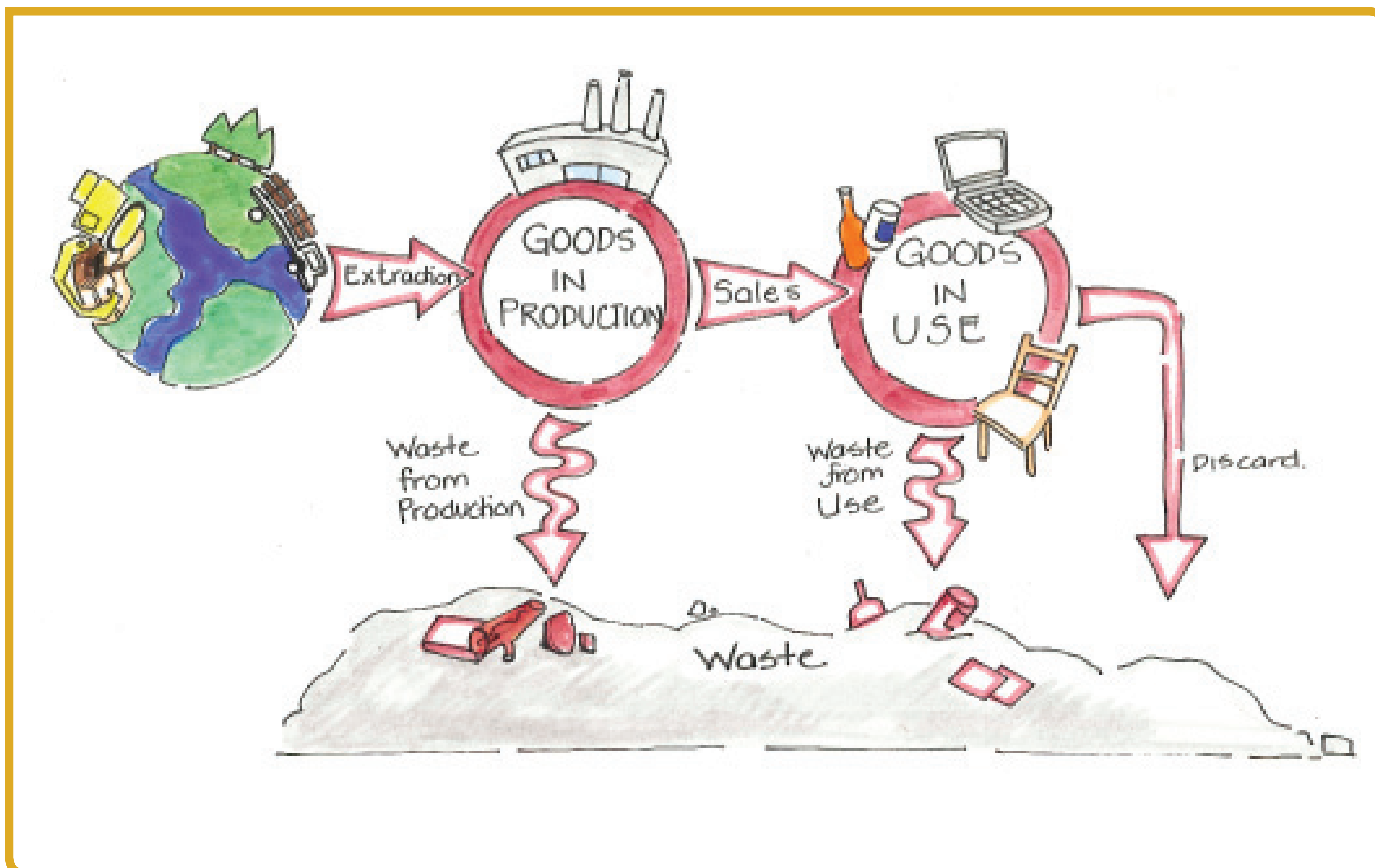
Sustainability has many different definitions, but the core concept is to ensure the long-term continuation of a thing or a system.

In our community, sustainability involves caring for the environment and surrounding ecosystems, which are critical for our own health and prosperity as well as the well-being of future generations.

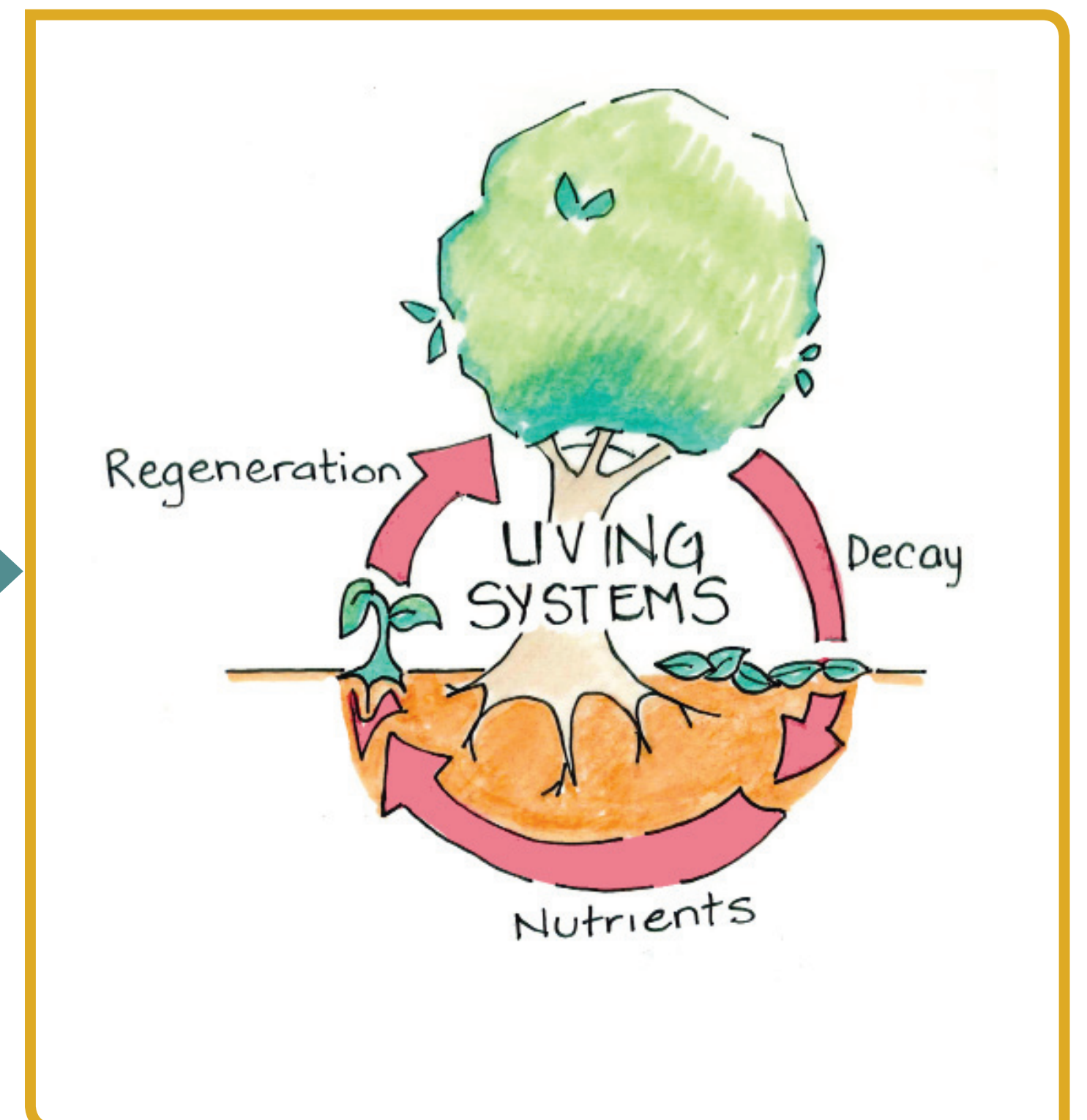
FUN FACT!

In nature, there is no such thing as “waste”. Instead, outputs from one organism become resources for another. For example, bugs and worms on the forest floor eat leaves and help create rich soil for new trees to grow in. The trees in turn provide habitat for birds, mammals and bugs, as well as materials and places for people.

How Sustainability Works



An unsustainable system makes waste



A sustainable system is a “closed loop”

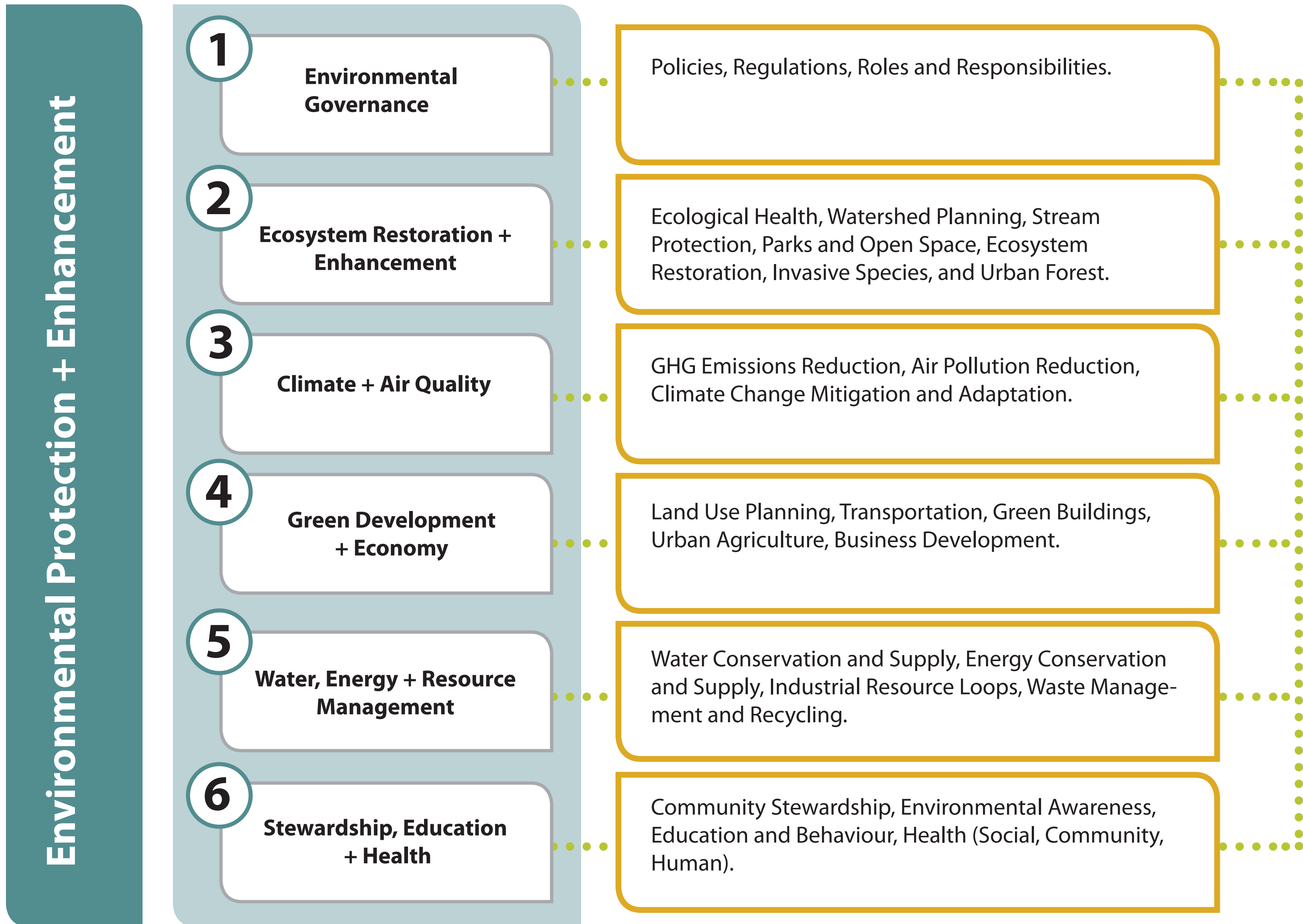
How Can We Achieve Sustainability?

Natural ecosystems are masters of sustainability!

We can learn a lot from natural ecosystems, like re-using our resources instead of sending “garbage” on a one-way trip to the landfill, and by re-using “waste” energy (for example, from buildings, factories or ice rinks) to heat nearby homes.

People are doing “less harm” to the environment, but to be truly sustainable we need to heal our relationships with nature (other species and ecosystems) and create a “net benefit”. Although this is challenging, there are many examples, both locally and worldwide, that can inspire this shift.

Burnaby's Sustainability Inventory



Examples

1 Environmental Governance



Protected over 25% of the City's land base as park, greenspace, and conservation areas including open watercourses, lakes/wetlands, shorelines and forested areas.

2 Ecosystem Restoration + Enhancement



Native forest enhancement with expansion of the Electronic Arts complex. Invasive species removal; planting of 7,100 native trees and shrubs; nature trails and interpretive signage.

3 Climate + Air Quality



A land use and development approach with a strong focus on alternative transportation options and density concentrated in Town Centres, resulting in less GHG emissions.

4 Green Development + Economy



UniverCity at SFU, Burnaby's sustainable mixed-use community, included protection of forest land on Burnaby Mountain, allowing for development of a more compact community.

5 Water, Energy + Resource Management



Implemented a leading food-scrap collection and recycling program for single and multi-family dwellings, and a pilot program for schools.

6 Stewardship, Education + Health

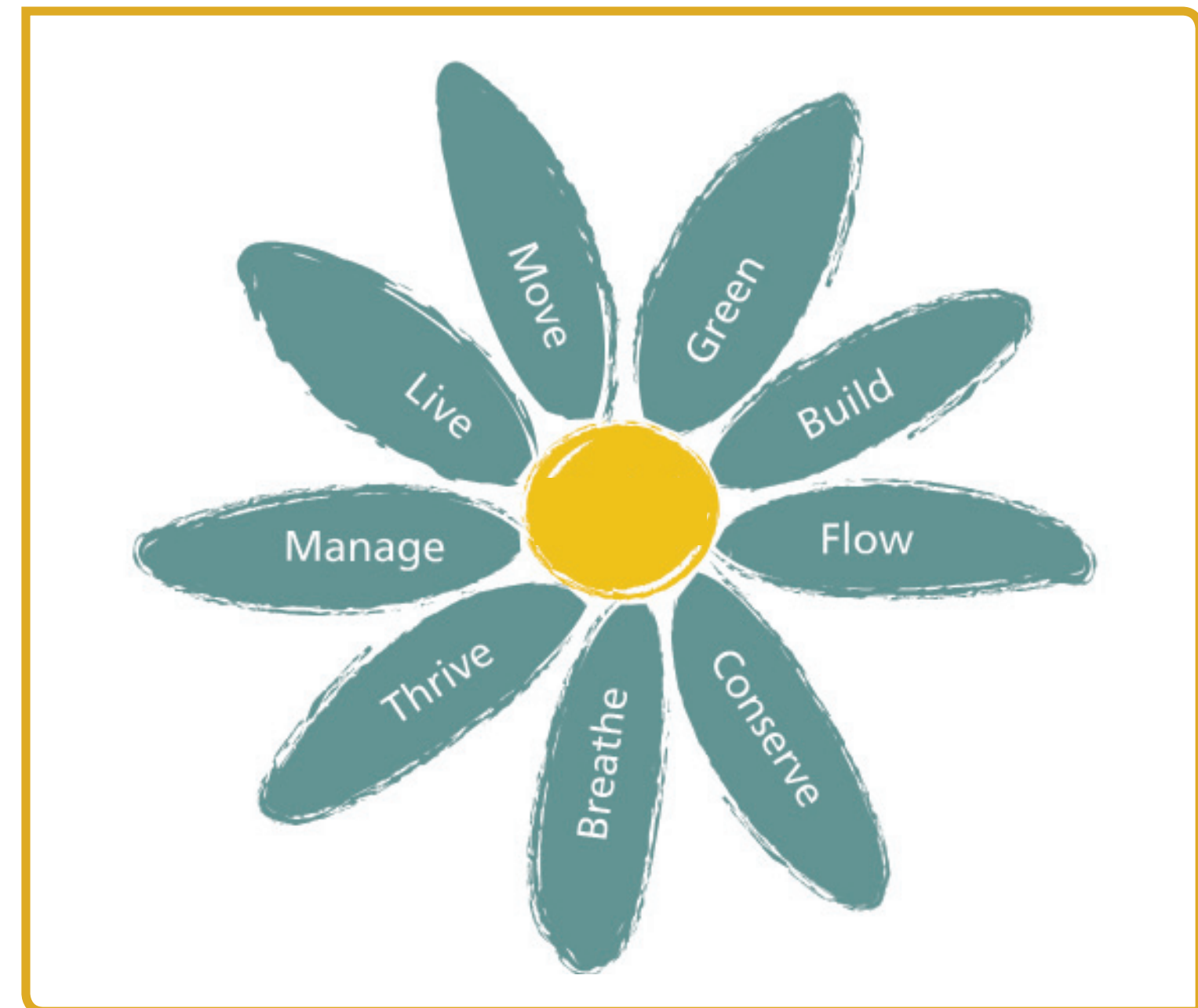


The City hosts annual Environment Week activities and events in June, and presents Environment Awards to leading citizens.

The ESS will address a variety of themes (broad categories) and topics (specific disciplines, systems, technologies, etc).

The themes will be used to organize subcommittee workshops and to form the structure of the strategy itself.

The new strategy will have theme-based goals, objectives and supporting actions.



A proposed framework based on the idea of nine petals (themes) of sustainability, is shown.

The 9 Proposed Themes for the ESS

FLOW



Conserving, managing and reusing our water resources (streams & watersheds, drinking water, wastewater).

BUILD



Developing healthy, energy-efficient, "green" buildings and energy systems.

MANAGE



Learning, building community partnerships, and managing through City leadership, policies and regulations.

GREEN



Protecting and enhancing ecosystems, wildlife habitat and greenspace.

LIVE



Improving the livability of our neighbourhoods.

MOVE



Providing a wider range of sustainable transportation options.

CONSERVE



Reducing consumption, re-using, recycling and managing waste.

BREATHE



Improving air quality and addressing climate change.

THRIVE



Improving health, prosperity, wellness and happiness.

Did we miss anything?

Tell us here!

There are 4 easy ways to get involved in the ESS!

1

Learn More!

Visit: www.burnaby.ca/ess-input and learn more about the project!



2

Tell Us!

We want to know what matters most to you! Visit www.burnaby.ca/ess-input and complete the "issues and priorities" questionnaire.



3

Attend an Event!

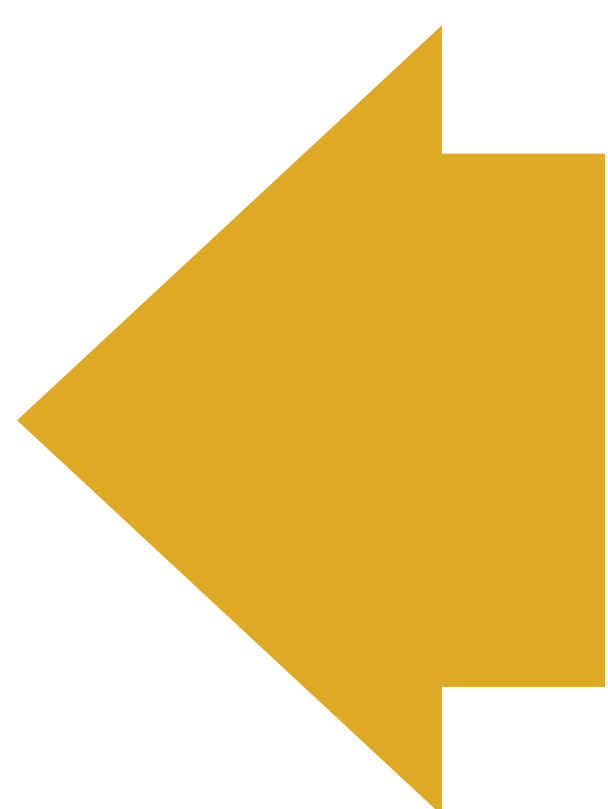
For a complete list of upcoming ESS events, please visit: www.burnaby.ca/ess-events.



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Stay In Touch!

For more information about this project, to learn how you can get involved, or to be added to our project email list, please email ecoplanning@burnaby.ca or call 604-294-7904.



Scan here with your smartphone to be directed to the project website!!