HANDBOOK

A Toolkit for Local Electeds Climate Action

MANAGE GROWTH FOR THE LONG TERM

A part of the Land Use and Growth Management Handbook

Stay tuned for the up-to-date version of this resource!

This document is undergoing fact checks and updates...
you will be able to access the new version in September 2025.

Table of Contents

Introduction

Basics

Growth management refers to the efforts a municipality or regional government makes to direct population and employment growth to meet the community's wider needs and vision for its future. In other words, **growth management is not an end in itself – it's a way of achieving other objectives that are important to the community or region**. The best way to manage growth will therefore depend on local circumstances and the community's vision for the future. But the themes and questions that arise in planning and public discussions about managing growth are similar across the board;

- How much growth should be accommodated in already built-up areas vs greenfield expansion,
- What densities for new growth are desirable, which natural areas should be off-limits to growth,
- How much farmland do we want to set aside for the long-term,
- What range of housing types is most desirable given local demographics, and which transportation options do we want to emphasize?

When the community's vision is for a more compact, walkable and bikeable, transit-friendly, low-carbon, climate-resilient, fiscally-prudent, and affordable future, planners talk about "**smart growth**". This refers to the type of land use and other supporting policies that direct growth so as to achieve an urban form that **generates a smaller footprint on the landscape** and more options in terms of housing type, transportation modes, neighbourhood character, and lifestyle than conventionally sprawling communities that focus on single-family homes and car-based transportation.

This part of the Land Use and Growth Management Handbook focuses on the basics of growth management, with an emphasis on:

- preparing regional and municipal growth management plans
- integrating climate and growth management goals
- integrating built and unbuilt features
- integrating fiscal and growth management considerations
- including a monitoring and evaluation framework in growth management plans

Guides/ Considerations for Rural/Smaller Communities

When we discuss growth management, we are not necessarily keeping to cities and towns that are growing. In fact, many places – especially smaller communities and rural areas – are not growing or may even be experiencing long-term population decline. In these areas, it's still – or even more – important to consider alternative land use strategies and manage declining population and employment effectively. For more information about this, check out Smart Growth in Small Towns and Rural Communities, by the US American Environmental Protection Agency.

Strategies

Resource expertise level: Green = beginner Blue = intermediate

◆Black = advanced ◆◆Double black = expert

****Climate Caucus has ranked the following initiatives from beginner to expert, based on Complexity to implement, Staff time & expertise, and Political capital. Please note, these rankings are our own best judgements.*

Strategy 1: Prepare regional and municipal growth management plans

- **Cooperating to achieve regional goals pays off in the long run**, not only in limiting GHG emissions but also in terms of enhancing economic performance, preserving essential natural systems, shortening commute times, improving transit connections, and increasing equity, and more.
- To achieve these desired goals, it's important that all municipalities in a given region **adopt a common vision to shape development** – otherwise developers will simply go wherever regulations are most lax and eventually undermine the vision behind the plan.
- The most effective way to implement a common vision is through a **regional land use plan**, usually promulgated by a regional government.
    - A regional plan based on smart growth principles will contain growth management policies designed to make most efficient use of the land base and explore alternatives to the conventional sprawl model of development.

INITIATIVES	THE BASICS	EXAMPLES
ADOPT A SMART GROWTH STRATEGY IN REGIONAL PLANS ♦	Regional plans based on a smart growth vision tend to feature policies that will: • achieve higher densities • contain sprawl • direct growth to the most logical places within the built-up area – especially in transit hubs or along transit lines • ensure that any greenfield growth is compact and diverse • ensure an adequate and affordable housing supply for different populations in the region • ensure an adequate land supply for industrial and commercial uses • preserve biodiversity and natural features	• Metro Vancouver, BC. Metro 2050: The Regional Growth Strategy, guided by five goals: 1. Put growth in the right places 2. Protect important lands 3. Develop complete communities 4. Provide affordable mobility, housing, and employment choices 5. Ensure the efficient provision of infrastructure. • Montreal Metropolitan Community, QC. Plan métropolitain d'aménagement et développement, deals with land use planning, economic development, transportation, air quality, water quality, social housing.
ADOPT A SMART GROWTH STRATEGY IN MUNICIPAL PLANS ■	A smart growth strategy can also be applied at the individual municipal level. In a regional context, local municipal plans are usually required to incorporate growth management policies that will implement the regional plans within the municipality's own geographic boundaries. In areas not subject to a regional plan, municipalities may adopt a smart growth strategy where they are experiencing some of the downsides of conventional development, e.g., seeing farmland or green areas disappear as urbanization proceeds.	• Kelowna, BC. 2040 Official Community Plan. After a period of suburban expansion into the surrounding mountain slopes, the city adopted plans to better manage growth, including the need for diverse housing forms and mixed-use village centres in suburban areas, the concentration of growth in designated urban centres, minimum density objectives, designation of transit supportive corridors connecting urban centres, and preservation of green infrastructure. • Grey County, ON. This largely rural municipality first developed a growth management strategy in

		2008 and has updated it regularly since then. The strategy anticipates population and employment growth and allocates it to component towns and townships based on infrastructure availability and intensification potential. It strengthens the role of settlement areas, emphasizing intensification and redevelopment, and restricting greenfield expansion.
ASSESS DIFFERENT GROWTH SCENARIOS	A smart growth approach may not be appropriate everywhere, but an objective assessment of a range of growth scenarios can help reveal the benefits of such an approach. Scenario analysis is often done while preparing a land use plan, and should include a variety of growth scenarios, including some that are more compact and diverse than recent development patterns. Typical criteria for the evaluation of scenarios often include lowering GHG emissions, minimizing farmland consumption, natural systems preservation, proximity to services, and optimal fiscal impact.	• Guelph, ON. Shaping Guelph, developed criteria to assess three distinct growth scenarios with the preferred alternative used to inform the City's official plan review. • Burnaby, BC. Growth Scenarios, considers two scenarios for meeting BC's minimum density guidelines while offering a diversity of housing type choices in the context of a community plan review.

Strategy-specific resources:

- Gerald Hodge (Author), Heather M. Hall (Author), Ira M. Robinson, Planning Canadian Regions, 2016. UBC Press:
    - Book pays special attention to climate change issues, environmental sustainability, reconciliation, and the planning of metropolitan regions across the country.

Strategy 2: Integrate climate and growth management goals

- Many Canadian municipalities of all sizes are adopting climate action plans and programs. Unfortunately, measures focusing specifically on managing growth have been underplayed in these plans.
    - This is in spite of the fact that land use is linked to sizable portions of emissions from transportation and housing.
    - Likewise, GHG emissions are often mentioned in land use plans, but growth has not necessarily been managed accordingly.
    - This disconnect has led to many municipalities missing out on the potential to reduce both their land and GHG footprints.
- Change is underway; however, with an **increasing number of municipalities incorporating growth management issues into their climate action plans** and, in some cases, using climate change as a major principle shaping their land use and growth management plans.

INITIATIVES	THE BASICS	EXAMPLES
INTEGRATE GROWTH MANAGEMENT GOALS INTO CLIMATE CHANGE PLANS	Land use change is intimately linked to both climate mitigation and adaptation. For example, it's widely understood that more compact and mixed-use development can bring trip origins and destinations closer together to support more walking, biking and – where available – transit usage. This kind of development can also support shared energy provision such as district heating facilities and reduce per-unit housing energy consumption. Experts agree that such measures can reduce community GHG emissions by up to 30%. On the adaptation side, land use policies can ensure that natural infrastructure is preserved or expanded, development is located to avoid fire-, flood- or erosion-prone areas, run-off and flood risks are reduced, urban heat islands are avoided, and grey infrastructure is used optimally.	• Kamloops, BC. Community Climate Action Plan, was based on modelling of various growth management options and landed on the 10-minute city, urban containment and green new neighbourhoods as low carbon land use strategies. • Surrey, BC. Climate Change Action Strategy: Surrey's roadmap to a zero-carbon resilient city in 2050 is an ambitious climate action plan that combines both mitigation and adaptation and includes a significant land use component – i.e., resilient 15-minute neighbourhoods. • City of Kawartha Lakes, ON. Healthy Environment Plan, ○ identifies areas where higher density residential development should occur close to commercial and institutional buildings, community services, and transit

		○ uses regulatory and financial incentives to encourage developers to create compact and mixed-use projects in higher density areas ○ integrates compact, mixed use, transit-oriented land use planning requirements and recommendations into secondary plans, official plans, and development guidelines
INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE GOALS INTO GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANS	Integrating climate considerations into growth management plans has emerged as a holistic approach to respond to mitigate climate change and enhance urban resilience. Municipalities are increasingly embedding climate change considerations in their official plans and secondary plans that establish local development policies to guide growth and development in defined areas of a city where major physical changes are expected. Progress on this front is especially evident in BC, where provincial legislation requires that an Official Community Plan include targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and policies to achieve those targets.	● Victoria, BC. Official Community Plan has climate mitigation and adaptation integrated into all components of the plan, including compact land use patterns, walkable and complete communities, transit-oriented development patterns and diverse, and green infrastructure. ● Edmonton, AB. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions and Energy Analysis, models different land use and transportation scenarios and draws conclusions about how to keep the city within its carbon budget . ● Ucluelet, BC. Official Community Plan Growth Analysis, explores several growth options from a GHG, infrastructure costs, and land consumption point of view.

Strategy-specific resources:

- FCM, Integrating Climate Considerations: Community planning, 2024: If your municipality is updating its community plan, this page outlines climate considerations you should be integrating in your planning activities and covers tools you may want to use.
- Action on Climate Team, The Low Carbon Resilience Planning Handbook: Integrating Low Carbon Resilience in Local Government Planning, 2021: This handbook presents a step-by-step process for embedding a low carbon resilience approach in municipal processes including growth

management, urban forest strategies, biodiversity planning, ecosystem restoration, and social resilience planning.

- ICLEI, Building Adaptive & Resilient Communities (BARC), 2024: This is a national program focused on resilience and adaptation. BARC offers a comprehensive way to respond to the impacts of climate change, develop and implement an adaptation plan, and protect the people, property, and prosperity of communities.
- C40 Cities, Climate Action Guide for Urban Planners, 2024. This guide is designed to support urban planners globally to play their full part in tackling the climate crisis. The guide focuses on the preparation and policy content of urban plans and explains how cities can embed climate action within these plans and policies.

Strategy 3: Integrate built and unbuilt features

- When we think of managing growth, we tend to focus on the built environment – where to settle new residents, where to encourage new businesses, and where to build new infrastructure.
- Just as important, however, is the "**unbuilt environment**", namely land that should remain in a natural or semi-natural state.

Intact ecosystems can absorb GHGs and are crucial to our ability to adapt to the changing climate as they can moderate temperatures, help avoid flooding events, and stabilize stream banks. Reducing expansion into fire-prone and flood-prone areas also reduces climate-related risks to residents and businesses.

There are two main types of land preservation associated with managing growth:
1) preserving land for parks, recreation, and greenways within built-up urban and suburban areas; and
2) preserving land outside the built-up area for food production or to maintain valuable natural areas—such as wildlife habitats and water supply sources. In each case, the goal is to channel development to more appropriate locations within the region or municipality using the type of initiatives described below.

INITIATIVES	THE BASICS	EXAMPLES
ESTABLISH AN URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY	A growth boundary puts a limit on how far a built area can expand and separates the built from unbuilt areas of the region or municipality. The boundary is ensconced in planning documents and reflected in infrastructure budgets and other	• Nanaimo, BC. Nanaimo Reimagined (the official plan) encourages development and redevelopment of lands within a defined Urban Containment Boundary (UCB). The City will not extend infrastructure to areas outside the UCB. There is enough serviced land, either vacant or

	implementing vehicles. The boundary prevents sprawl onto valuable greenfield land and concentrates development in existing built-up areas and other areas within the boundary that are designated for development.	underutilized, within the UCB to accommodate projected demands for housing to 2046 and commercial and industrial lands until 2041. The UCB (with adjustments) has been in place since the 1980s. • Waterloo Region, ON. The Regional Official Plan lays out a Countryside Line that separates the urban from rural areas of the region and permanently protects quality farmland and ecologically-important areas. The region is well-known for opposing sprawl and keeping urban expansion to the minimum, only allowing it when other growth management targets (e.g., densities) have been met within urban areas.
PRESERVE A NETWORK OF NATURAL AREAS	Urban development in Canada has often been undertaken at the expense of our natural heritage. Most wetlands and much of the original forests and streams in settled areas have been irreversibly replaced with tarmac and buildings. Remaining natural areas often exist in a scattered, disconnected condition. Effective growth management can help preserve remaining natural heritage and their ecological functions by designating a network of interconnected natural nodes and corridors and steering development away from them.	• City of Edmonton, AB. The City's Green Network Strategy takes a systems approach to managing, programming, and promoting the use of a well-connected, multi-functional network of open spaces. It identifies networks of natural features such as wetlands, forested areas and meadows, plus constructed trails, corridors, and pathways throughout the city. The Strategy links neighbourhoods into a coherent green network and adopts policies to close network gaps wherever they are identified, improve the public realm, and restore ecological functions. • Halifax Regional Municipality, NS. The Green Network Plan defines an interconnected open space system for the municipality, including ecologically and culturally important land and aquatic systems, and outlines strategies to protect and manage them. The strategy was incorporated into the HRM regional plan. • Longueuil, QC. The Plan protection et conservation des milieux

		naturels establishes a network of ecological hubs and connecting links by setting aside 1,500 hectares of land in perpetuity, protecting 21% of the municipality's land area.
PRESERVE FARMLAND	Canada is losing productive farmland to development and non-farm uses especially near urban areas where development pressures exist. Municipalities and regional governments can preserve local foodlands by adopting strong policies in their growth management plans putting foodlands off limits to non-farm development. While land preservation policies are paramount, supporting efforts are also needed to protect and advance the farm economy, e.g., through ensuring adequate farm-related infrastructure is built and providing a buffer between farmland and nearby development. Some municipalities are also encouraging farming within developed areas by putting land aside for community gardens and permitting other food-related activities.	• Richmond, BC. The City's Farming First Strategy protects about 40% of the land base for long-term agriculture by committing the City to oppose any derogations from the ALR, building drainage and irrigation infrastructure, and designating buffer areas as development permit areas where the type of growth will be strictly controlled. Within the built-up area, the City uses the development approval process to encourage developers to incorporate urban agriculture options into development projects. • Oxford County, ON. Oxford's Official Plan contains policies to prevent speculation and development pressures on its farmland base. The policies state that the county's farmland will remain as is in the long term and that only farm-related residential and non-residential development is permitted in the designated agricultural areas, which cover 90% of the county's territory. The splitting of agricultural lots is tightly controlled and undersized lots are encouraged to join with adjacent lots in order to improve the economic viability of farming.
AVOID GROWTH IN HAZARDOUS AREAS	Increased flooding, wildfires and sea-level rise – both related at least in part to global climate change - are threatening lives and property in many communities in Canada. Municipalities are responding with a combination of measures including infrastructure adaptations, using natural	• Calgary, AB. Calgary experienced major flooding in 2005 and 2013. The City's Municipal Development Plan prohibits all new development in floodways and requires that the City's development regulations reflect this policy. • Halifax Regional Municipality, NS. Halifax was one of the first Canadian cities to initiate a detailed climate adaptation risk study in

	features to soften disruptive events, and managed retreat from high-risk areas.	response to increased extreme weather combined with sea level rise. The municipality's Regional Municipal Planning Strategy prohibits residential development within 3.8 metres of sea level and restricts development within 20-year flood plains. Within 100-year floodplains, only flood-proof structures will be allowed. These policies must be reflected in supporting bylaws and development plans.

Strategy-specific resources:

- Ontario Nature, Best Practices Guide to Natural Heritage Systems Planning, 2014.
- Climate Risk Institute, Climate Change Adaptation Resource Pathway (ARP) Land Use, Regional and Urban Planning, 2022: An interactive document that helps planners identify resources to increase their knowledge and understanding of climate change adaptation and to help support adaptation action. The tool supports entry into, navigation of, and progression through available reports, best practices, videos, guides, networks and training opportunities related to climate change adaptation and planning.
- Wayne Caldwell et al (eds). Farmland Preservation: Land for Future Generations, 2017: The book provides a range of views and case studies from across Canada, the USA, and beyond. It's intended to help the reader understand the importance of the issue and the potential for applying new approaches to agricultural protection, policy tools, and initiatives
- Canadian Climate Institute, 2024. Close to home: How to build more housing in a changing climate quantifies the economic risks of building new homes in the paths of wildfires and floods and provides policy recommendations.

Strategy 4: Integrate fiscal and growth management considerations

Once established, development patterns have a lot of inertia and are difficult to change, even over long periods of concerted effort. To effect change, all the available levers have to be put to use in a mutually reinforcing way. Effective growth management can improve municipal finances by economizing on land and infrastructure and reducing operating costs. Thus, **growth management efforts can be greatly strengthened if we dovetail them with municipal financial mechanisms**. In those municipalities where land use and financial goals are not currently working together, there is great potential to enhance the efficiency and long-term sustainability of both.

INITIATIVES	THE BASICS	EXAMPLES
CONSIDER FISCAL IMPLICATIONS OF GROWTH	Compact, diverse, walkable or transit-oriented growth is usually found to be more fiscally sustainable than low-density, car-oriented growth. It follows that fiscal impact analysis of land use decisions will help steer development patterns in a more sustainable and fiscally responsible direction.	• Ottawa, ON. Summary Update of Comparative Municipal Fiscal Impact Analysis, found that low-density development burdened the municipality fiscally compared to urban infill. • Prince George, BC. CLIC Tool analysis of growth options, including fiscal impacts on the municipality and GHG emissions. • Kelowna, BC. Model City, allows city officials to visualize growth options and calculate fiscal impacts. • Edmonton, AB. City Plan Growth Scenarios Relative Financial Assessment, a study done in the context of a growth scenarios analysis for the new City Plan showed that more compact development patterns were financially more efficient than sprawl. • Regional Municipality of Halifax, NS. Quantifying the Costs Benefits of Alternative Growth Scenarios, compared three scenarios, a Business-as-Usual scenario; a 40% Regional Centre, 40% Suburban and 20% rural (scenario A); and a 50% regional centre, 30% suburban and 20% rural (scenario B). Both scenarios A and B reduced costs in comparison to Business-as-Usual scenario, with scenario A representing a savings of $ 1.7 billion and scenario B representing a savings of $ 3.1 billion. • Red Deer County conducted a Cost of Community Services study to understand the relative fiscal performance of different land use types.

USE FISCAL TOOLS TO REINFORCE LONG-TERM GROWTH MANAGEMENT GOALS	Municipal revenue tools are often designed by finance officials without regard to their long-term impact on growth management decisions. Analysis has shown that many of these tools favour low-density, car-oriented development patterns. Re-designing revenue instruments to support growth management goals will ensure better implementation of land use plans while maintaining the long-term fiscal health of the municipality.	• Chilliwack, BC. Downtown Revitalization Tax Exemption, a property tax exemption introduced in 2004 to encourage downtown development. • Kitchener, ON. Development Charges bylaw, sets their development charges in central neighbourhoods 74% below those charged in suburban areas. • Laval, QC. Greenhouse gas compensation program, uses a simple model to calculate the GHG emissions and lost carbon sequestration potential of a proposed development to arrive at a square metre cost that developers are taxed. Tax revenues are directed to a climate initiatives fund.

Strategy-specific resources:

- Ray Tomalty, Municipal Finances and Growth Planning in the Greater Golden Horseshoe Opportunities for Better Integration to Support Smart Growth, 2022: Report explores the interconnections between growth management and municipal finances in the context of the Toronto region.
- Sustainable Prosperity, Creating Complete, Compact and Energy-Efficient Communities in BC: How Fiscal Tools Can Be An Opportunity For Local Governments, 2015.
- Stewart Elgie, Pricing Works How pricing of municipal services and infrastructure can lead to healthier and more efficient cities, 2016: Examines opportunities for using pricing policy tools to help address environmental problems *and* generate revenue to increase the financial sustainability of our municipal services.
- FCM, Understanding the climate and financial impacts of land-use decisions, 2024: This guide aims to give municipal elected officials and staff (e.g., land use planners, asset managers, etc.) a high-level understanding of how land use decisions impact their municipality's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and fiscal sustainability.
- Todd Litman, Understanding smart growth savings : evaluating economic savings and benefits of compact development, 2024: The paper discusses the costs of sprawl and benefits of smart growth development including the cost of public infrastructure and services (e.g., roads, water, sewage, garbage collection, school transport, and mail delivery), household affordability, mobility for non-drivers, travel congestion and time, traffic safety, economic opportunity, social problems, public fitness and health, energy consumption, air pollutants and economic development.

Strategy 5: Include a monitoring and evaluation framework

Managing growth is a complex and long-term undertaking, often showing results only over several electoral cycles. Moreover, not every policy intervention works in every situation, so it is important to frame it as a learning process. **In this context, a monitoring and evaluation framework built directly into growth management plans helps to:**

- report on efforts and progress towards plan objectives
- show what benefits are achieved for the effort and public resources that went into the plan
- help build staff and public confidence in future planning initiatives
- help inform the public and support community engagement during plan revisions
- for regional plans, to monitor alignment of member municipalities and provide guidance on how to improve their regional plan implementation efforts.

To ensure effective learning, it is important to monitor the combination of implementation actions, immediate results, and progress towards outcomes. Not all monitoring and evaluation frameworks explicitly include GHG emissions and climate impacts, but almost all include land use factors that are indirectly linked to climate.

INITIATIVES	THE BASICS	EXAMPLES
CREATE AN EVALUATION FRAMEWORK	Develop a comprehensive evaluation framework focused on assessing the outcomes of the growth management plan, including these components: • objectives built into the plan • indicators that can be used to track whether the objectives are being met • sources of information to track performance on the indicators, • data monitoring and reporting frequency • discussion of what will be done with the results of the evaluation.	• Halifax Regional Municipality, NS. Regional Municipal Planning Strategy, sets out an evaluation framework including 75 indicators on land supply, transportation, housing, and infrastructure. • City of Victoria, BC. OCP Implementation & Annual Review, includes a framework with 17 indicators on land management & development, housing, transportation, infrastructure, and the tree canopy.
ADOPT QUANTITATIVE TARGETS	Not every planning evaluation framework includes quantitative targets. Those without targets can report on	• City of Victoria, BC. OCP Implementation & Annual Review, has targets for all 17 indicators.

	trends but can't comment on whether the trends are meeting the aspirations of the community. Targets provide the means to make an objective evaluation of whether the growth management plan is being successfully implemented and if not, what needs to change – i.e., a solid basis for adaptive management.	• Metro Vancouver, BC. Metro 2050, has quantitative targets on GHG emissions; % growth within growth boundaries, designated urban centres, or transit corridors; protected natural systems; tree canopy cover; and affordable housing. • Montréal Metropolitan Community, QC. Suivi de PMAD, Edition 2021, is being evaluated with targets on % growth in TODs, natural area protection, transit modal share, minimum residential densities in TODs and greenfields, and farmland increase.

Strategy-specific resources:

- Mark Seasons, Evaluating Urban and Regional Plans, 2021. UBC Press. This book provides a thorough introduction to the evaluation of regional and municipal plans, along with a step-by-step guide on carrying out evaluations.
- Mark Stevens, Evaluating the Quality of Official Community Plans in Southern British Columbia, 2013. Journal of Planning Education and Research 33(4): 471 –490.

Pushback and Response

Pushback	Response
Slowing greenfield development reduces the amount of land available for development and causes land prices and hence housing prices to rise.	That is a possibility if growth is focused on a small portion of the community's land or areas where it is hard to develop. However, land supply is also constrained by exclusive single-family zoning, which covers more than 50% of even Canada's most urban communities. A comprehensive "smart growth" plan can help with affordability in a few ways: by allowing more density, which reduces the cost of land per unit; by providing smaller, less expensive housing types; by reducing the need for parking; and by reducing infrastructure costs. Huge

	improvements in affordability come when households need fewer cars, because transportation accounts for about 20% of a typical suburban household's costs.
Managing growth increases regulation and limits peoples' freedom: it's telling people where to live, what kind of home they can own or rent, and how to get to work.	Typical single-family suburban subdivisions do the same by limiting people to just a few types of housing, in locations where their only transportation option is to drive to work, for shopping, and for fun. Diversifying housing in existing neighbourhoods and in urban centres and corridors supports more local shops and services, and makes transit more viable, giving people much more choice.
Managing growth requires greater coordination among municipal departments, more studies, and more investment in infrastructure like transit, bike paths and sidewalks. It's more costly than the benefits can justify.	Managing growth requires a greater planning effort in the short run but in the long run it can avoid serious problems, like infrastructure networks that are prohibitively expensive to maintain and replace. The costs of public investment are spread across more people, making them less expensive per person. Finally, properly managed growth provides many benefits to residents, including financial savings, more active and healthy lifestyles, better transport options for non-drivers, and preservation of valued farmland and natural areas.

Glossary

- **Growth management**: The management of the rate and location of population and employment growth so as to achieve the community's vision for the future.
- **Smart growth**: Growth management that intends to achieve a more compact urban form with a lower climate impact and a wider variety of housing and transportation options than conventional growth patterns.

General Resources

Did you know Climate Caucus offers an "Ask Us Anything' service for elected officials in the network?

- Ray Tomalty and Alan Mallach, America's Urban Future: Lessons from North of the Border, 2016. Island Press: Book discusses how growth is managed in Canada vs the USA and how the Canadian approach leads to more climate-safe, sustainable, and equitable cities.
- Todd Litman, Smart growth reforms : changing planning, regulatory and fiscal practices to support more efficient land use: The report explores revisions to land use and transportation plans and fiscal policies to implement smart growth goals.

You could ask questions like "can you help me find this resource?" "Do you know of funding for X?" "Do you have examples of X policy language?" or "can you connect me with an expert in X?"

Send us your questions here!

- Rylan Graham, Albert T. Han & Sasha Tsenkova, An Analysis of the Influence of Smart Growth on Growth Patterns in Mid-Sized Canadian Metropolitan Areas, 2019. Planning Practice & Research, 34:5, 498-521: Tracks growth management policies in six mid-sized Canadian CMAs and evaluates impacts on growth patterns.
- Ray Tomalty and Don Alexander, Smart Growth in Canada: Implementation of a Planning Concept, 2005: A study of six major metro areas in Canada that examined growth management policies and outcomes.
- Gerrit-Jan Knaap et al (eds), Handbook on Smart Growth Promise, Principles, and Prospects for Planning, 2022. Elgar Publishing.
- Todd Litman, Selling smart growth: communicating the direct benefits of more accessible, multi-modal locations to households, businesses and governments, 2023: Reviews benefits of smart growth management for housing values and appreciation, household expenditures, and safety, labour market growth, developer revenue, and municipal cost savings.
- Todd Litman, Evaluating criticism of smart growth, 2021: The paper defines the concept of smart growth, outlines different smart growth strategies, and comments on criticisms of smart growth's impacts for consumers and the economy (e.g., equity, freedom, safety, traffic congestion, housing affordability, cost of living, public service costs and traffic).
- Canadian Urban Transportation Association, Housing is on the Line, 2023. Guide to transit-oriented housing policy, with recommendations by theme and by level of government.

Climate Caucus Resources:

Climate Caucus Municipal Grants List - detailed list of relevant municipal grants

Policies and Resources Library - list of motions, bylaws, council reports and briefing notes