



Slocan Valley

# THE SLOCAN VALLEY CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

---

## SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

---

62<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020



A new feature for our Co-op will be to report on current achievements, and future plans with regard to Sustainability. The focus of our efforts will cover, not only environmental practises, but social responsibility, and operational efficiencies.

There are often practises that we utilize daily that we don't think about as being noteworthy; however, they are all the drops-in-the-bucket that contribute to an active environment for sustainability. We have been compiling a list of regular activities that we perform to identify areas where enhancements can be considered. Some of these include the following:

- Actively recycling cardboard packaging and reusing ideally sized cardboard packaging for sturdy containers for customer shopping. This has helped in our elimination of the use of plastic bags at our checkouts.
- Recycling bins are used to collect all waste-paper, plastic shrink wrap for received deliveries on pallets, and other items that can be sent to the local recycling collection areas.
- Introducing eStatements to replace monthly, customer account mail-out statements.
- Upgrading the exterior signage that was at the end of its life cycle with LED fixtures.
- Integrating light controls in the 2013 store renovation to include timers and motion sensors to reduce energy consumption.
- Developing our own, in-house fresh products, salads and sandwiches, which can help reduce the carbon footprint of multiple supplier drops, and put food waste controls in our hands.
- Daily monitoring of our refrigeration and HVAC systems to detect irregularities, and performing regular maintenance and filter changes to ensure systems are operating within ideal efficiency.
- Our office environment collects single-side print paper for re-use in our printers and copiers. All non-confidential documents that would otherwise be sent to recycling are re-used of their unused side for printing of general filing documents.

There are additional elements that will be identified in the near future on our efforts. One that ties together environmental sustainability and social responsibility is our new EV, or Electric Vehicle Program Subsidy.

As a part of our on-going commitment to environmental sustainability, we are announcing that the Slocan Valley Co-operative has instituted a program to assist members in the installation of EV charging systems in their homes. This program provides a grant of \$250 to qualified Slocan Valley Co-op members to assist in the costs for the charger installations. Applicants will need to provide evidence of the completed installation by a BC certified electrician. Once the requirements are fulfilled the member will receive a Co-op gift card in the value of \$250, good for the purchase of merchandise and services at our Co-op.

This may seem a small step but reflects our awareness that we need to be a part of the solution to global warming, climate change, and environmental sustainability. Further details on the application process will be provided with our program unveiling.

Social Responsibility will involve information on our Community Development Fund, which is being designed to provide assistance and support to groups and organizations with criteria that surrounds community enhancement, and programs that bolster community needs.

Operational Efficiencies will involve incorporating energy efficient systems in everything from small upgrades like interior LED lighting, and new equipment, to including consideration for vehicle charging stations in new facility projects.

We hope the inclusion of our Sustainability Report will help bring awareness to our members on what active measures are being taken, and what future measures are being considered and factored in the organization. We can be proud of the fact that we are striving to improve where possible, so that we can meet new commitments for the long-term health of our Co-op, its members, and our communities.

Chris Sapriken  
General Manager  
Slocan Valley Co-operative Association