

Whistler Centre for Sustainability FAQ Sheet

Q: What is the Whistler Centre for Sustainability and what is its mandate?

A: The Whistler Centre for Sustainability (the Centre) is a non-profit organization with a mission 'to lead communities and tourism toward a sustainable future.'

Q: There are many enterprising non-profit organizations out there doing work in sustainability. What makes the Centre unique?

A: Whistler has been recognized internationally for its sustainability planning and practices, in particular, the award winning Whistler2020. The RMOW was frequently receiving questions and requests for assistance from other local governments wishing to advance their sustainability practices. The Centre was created to provide this unique expertise from Whistler to other communities and organizations, as well as to learn from others and bring those learnings back to Whistler.

Q: Does the Centre work with organizations outside of Whistler?

A: The Centre works outside of Whistler by providing assistance to other local governments and tourism organizations to develop sustainability plans and implementation strategies. The Centre continues to develop and manage Whistler2020, the community of Whistler's long-range sustainability plan, and works with the 200 task force members and 50 community partners to implement Whistler2020 strategies. The Centre also provides support and expertise to Whistler enterprises in sustainability-related planning and strategies such as energy reduction and sustainable purchasing.

Q: Is the Centre part of the Resort Municipality of Whistler?

A: The Centre was created by the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) and members of the community to establish an independent organization to lead sustainability planning and implementation within the community, as well as to take Whistler's best practices and export them to other communities. The Centre is a non-profit organization led by an executive director and team of four, and governed by a board of directors.

Q: Where does the Centre receive its funding?

A: The Centre is an enterprising non-profit organization and has established a consulting practice providing fee-for-service assistance to local governments and tourism organizations. As a non-profit organization, it also applies for grant funding for its projects and educational activities. The RMOW had also committed some seed funding towards the Centre for four years.