

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024**

SUBJECT **Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Summit – Summary Report**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide the summary report from the Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities (VICC) 2024 Virtual Climate Summit.

BACKGROUND

The VICC Climate Leadership Steering Committee is composed of elected officials appointed by regional districts across Vancouver Island and surrounding coastal communities. Director Dave Thompson serves as the appointed representative from the Capital Regional District (CRD) on this committee.

The mission of the VICC Climate Leadership Steering Committee is to connect elected officials and staff from diverse VICC communities, empowering them to accelerate their climate action goals through best practice sharing, collaboration, and advocacy with other levels of government. The CRD also administers two inter-municipal climate action committees within the capital region—one for staff and one for elected officials—both with similar mandates.

In response to a request from the VICC Steering Committee, and following direction from the Board in fall 2023, the CRD Climate Action service contributed \$31,500 to support VICC initiatives through 2024. Other regional districts and the Islands Trust also provided funding. This funding enabled the Community Energy Association to act as a secretariat and coordinate priority projects, including the Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities 2024 Virtual Climate Summit, held over two days in May 2024.

Invitations to the summit were extended to local government elected officials, staff and partner organizations both within and outside the capital region. CRD Climate Action staff presented on the first day, while Director Thompson presented on the second day. A synopsis of the event, including summaries of presentations, key themes and priority actions, is provided in Appendix A. The VICC Climate Leadership Steering Committee plans to make this an annual event.

CONCLUSION

The Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Leadership Steering Committee, comprised of elected officials from across Vancouver Island and nearby coastal areas, aims to empower local governments to tackle climate change through collaboration, knowledge exchange and advocacy. In May 2024, the Committee hosted the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities 2024 Virtual Climate Summit, where local government elected officials and staff attended. A report has been shared to provide a summary of key themes and priority actions.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

Submitted by:	Nikki Elliott, MPA, Manager, Climate Action Programs
Concurrence:	Russ Smith, Acting General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities 2024 Virtual Climate Summit Report
(September 2024)