

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020**

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**SUBJECT**     **2019-2022 Climate Action & Environmental Stewardship Service Planning**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To provide the Environmental Services Committee with an overview of relevant initiatives undertaken by the Environmental Protection division in 2020 and planned for 2021 to deliver on approved Board Priorities and the Corporate Plan.

**BACKGROUND**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board completed its strategic planning early in 2019 and approved the CRD Board Strategic Priorities 2019-2022.

The four priorities are:

1. Community Wellbeing – Transportation & Housing
2. Climate Action & Environmental Stewardship
3. First Nations Reconciliation
4. Advocacy, Governance & Accountability

The priorities were confirmed at the annual check-in on May 13, 2020.

The 2019-2022 CRD Corporate Plan is aligned to the Board direction. It highlights the initiatives the CRD needs to deliver over the Board's four-year term to address the region's most important needs. The Corporate Plan identified 14 of initiatives under Climate Action & Adaptation, which fall under the Environmental Services Committee's mandate.

Appendix A, *Community Need Summary - Climate Action & Adaptation 2021*, is a summary of the planned activities for 2021. It contains details about core service levels, new initiatives proposed and performance metrics.

Appendix B, *Climate Action & Adaptation - Initiatives Progress Report*, provides insights into what has been delivered through the 12 delivery initiatives approved last year, for delivery in 2020.

The Service Planning process gathered information necessary to assemble a provisional budget for Committee and Board review. The purpose of this report is to explain how the Environmental Protection divisional program of work connects to the Board Priorities, Corporate Plan and provisional budget.

In addition to the above, the following motion was carried at the CRD Board meeting on May 13, 2020:

*That the Capital Regional Board extend the previously approved two-year increase of \$95,000 for climate action initiatives, including a potential extension of the BC Hydro*

*matching funds for the Community Energy Manager and to provide staff support to seek grant funds and update the CRD Climate Action Strategy and refer the report back to staff for a further report on additional expenditures in the 2021 budget to accelerate the priority actions that staff have identified in the report including the Regional Energy Retrofit Program and the CRD Climate Action Strategy Update.*

## **ALTERNATIVES**

### *Alternative 1*

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the CRD Board:

1. That Appendix A, Community Needs Summary – Climate Action & Adaptation, be approved as presented and advanced to the October 28, 2020 provisional budget review process;
2. That staff pursue the completion of an updated Climate Action Strategy;
3. That staff pursue completion of a detailed business case for a Regional Energy Retrofit Program; and
4. That staff report back in 2021 with 2022 budget implications (as proposed in the May 13, 2020 CRD Board staff report).

### *Alternative 2*

1. That Appendix A, Community Needs Summary - Climate Action & Adaptation, be approved as presented and advanced to the October 28, 2020 provisional budget review process; and
2. That staff initiate a Climate Action Service bylaw amendment process to increase the maximum annual requisition by \$1,100,000 to allow the CRD to advance priority regional retrofit and electric vehicle charging infrastructure programs in the future.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Service Delivery Implications*

The Community Need Summary provides an overview of all work that needs to be undertaken in order to meet our regulatory requirements, satisfy Board direction and meet the needs of the communities we serve.

### *Financial Implications*

Initiatives identified in the Corporate Plan (including Board Priorities) cannot be undertaken without resourcing. The Board determines resourcing through its annual review and approval of financial plans. To support the Board's decision-making, staff, through the service planning process, provide recommendations on funding, timing and service levels. During this year's service planning process, staff have been mindful of the fiscal challenges facing the region in the months ahead.

Staff have identified one initiative that will have budget and/or staffing implications for 2021: the continued co-funding of the Community Energy Manager position to update the Climate Action Strategy and complete a building energy retrofit program business case (\$95,000/year).

The Climate Action service is currently at its maximum requisition limit. An increase in annual funding above \$95,000 would trigger a bylaw amendment process, requiring two-thirds agreement by local governments.

Staff are actively pursuing external grants and partnership opportunities to advance regional climate action goals and strategic priorities. This includes an application to the Federation of Municipalities Community Efficiency Financing Grant (approved by the Board October 14, 2020).

#### *Environmental & Climate Implications*

According to recent analysis, buildings account for 32% of emissions (18% residential buildings and 14% commercial/institutional buildings) across the capital region. On-road transportation accounts for approximately 46% of regional emissions.

From a residential building perspective, the CRD's Transition 2050 Retrofit Acceleration Strategy indicates that approximately 2,600 single family dwellings need to be retrofitted each year for our community to contribute to the achievement of an 80% to 100% GHG emissions reduction by 2050. This equates to approximately 10,000 tonnes of GHG emissions reduction annually from single family dwellings.

Staff will determine zero emissions vehicle adoption projections and GHG savings through a forthcoming EV Roadmap project.

#### *Intergovernmental Implications*

The CRD administers the Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group and Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force to support communication and collaboration between municipalities and electoral areas across the capital region, and provide information, feedback and support to programs and initiatives related to regional climate action. These groups would be utilized to refine the development of a Regional Energy Retrofit Program and a Zero Emission Vehicle Program and update the CRD Climate Action Strategy.

#### *Regional Growth Strategy Implications*

The Regional Growth Strategy includes a target to reduce GHG emissions by 61% by 2038, from a base year of 2007.

#### *Financial Implications*

A continuation of \$95,000/year requisition increase would allow for potential extension of the BC Hydro matching funds for the Community Energy Manager position, update the CRD Climate Action Strategy and complete a business case for a Regional Energy Retrofit Program.

To implement both a Regional Energy Retrofit Program and Zero Emission Vehicle Program, staff anticipate that annual costs would range between \$700,000 and \$1,100,000 per year. These

costs would be better determined as part of completion of a business case for implementing a Regional Building Energy Retrofit Program and further engagement with regional stakeholders, as part of the CRD's EV Roadmap project in 2021.

### **CONCLUSION**

Staff have been progressing initiatives and actions identified in the Corporate Plan, including Board Priorities. The Board determines resourcing through its annual review and approval of financial plans. As per previous years, to support the Board's decision-making, staff are providing recommendations on funding, timing and service levels through the service and financial planning processes.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Appendix A, Community Needs Summary - Climate Action & Adaptation, be approved as presented and advanced to the October 28, 2020 provisional budget review process;
2. That staff pursue the completion of an updated Climate Action Strategy;
3. That staff pursue completion of a detailed business case for a Regional Energy Retrofit Program; and
4. That staff report back in 2021 with 2022 budget implications (as proposed in the May 13, 2020 CRD Board staff report).

Submitted by:	Glenn Harris, Ph.D., R.P.Bio., Senior Manager, Environmental Protection
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A: Community Need Summary - Climate Action

Appendix B: Climate Action & Adaptation - Initiatives Progress Report