



Making a difference...together

**OPEN CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021**

**APPENDIX D  
CORPORATE CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES**

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Staff continued the development of a renewed Climate Action Strategy for the organization. The Climate Action Strategy will provide a consolidated overview of the climate actions that the CRD will undertake within both its corporate operations and community-focused services over the next five years. Over this quarter, Climate Action Program staff engaged almost two dozen CRD services that will have a role in implementing the strategy. The CRD Climate Inter-Municipal Task Force and the Working Group also provided input on regional climate action priorities related to local government capacity building and policy support, regional/local data acquisition and community programs. The strategy will be presented to the Board for approval in fall 2021, along with any potential 2022 budget implications.

The CRD submitted an application to Natural Resources Canada's Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program for upwards of \$460,000 in grant funding to support the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. To reduce administrative burden for municipal partners, the CRD offered to lead a co-application and will manage the funding agreement, if successful. This initiative would see the installation of 110, Level 2 charge points across 17 sites providing public, fleet and workplace charging (63 for CRD, 45 for City of Victoria, 1 for Town of View Royal, and 1 for Township of Esquimalt). In the CRD's case, we have prioritized a significant increase in fleet charging capability to support transition to EVs with the goal of reducing fleet emissions by 40% by 2030. The CRD recently implemented a Green Fleet Policy that will ensure EVs are prioritized for fleet purchases. For public charging, the recently completed Capital Region Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Roadmap has identified a need to increase available public EV infrastructure to achieve regional climate targets and assist municipalities in achieving transportation related emission reduction goals.

The CRD was successful in receiving the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund Community Efficiency Financing (FCM CEF) 'design study' grant for up to \$175,000 to complete a more detailed design for the regional energy retrofit program. Staff are actively working with local government partners to develop a business case for a regional energy retrofit program, and will be able to utilize the FCM CEF grant towards determining more detailed design components, including a third party financing mechanism. This business case was a previous Board-approved project for 2021 and will identify potential scope, scale, program components, partners and financial implications to implement a regional program, in alignment with regional climate action goals. In the interim, the business case will inform 2022 budget considerations. Outputs of this work will also allow the CRD and municipal partners to apply to the FCM CEF 'capital' funding in the future.

Between August 2020 and June 2021, the Bring it Home for Climate pilot program collected 402 registrations, provided 101 EnerGuide Home Energy Assessment subsidies, and 93 Virtual Home Energy Check-ups representing residents from across the region. Co-funded by the CRD and a Federation of Canadian Municipalities grant, and administered by City Green Solutions, the Bring it Home for Climate pilot program aims to support climate home retrofits. Due to the initial success of the program, which launched in summer 2020, the CRD supported an extension of the program offering through 2021. Uptake has continued, albeit at a slower pace, despite limited marketing budgets. A follow-up survey conducted in February has indicated that the program influenced upgrade choices (primarily through the EnerGuide Assessment Subsidy) for the majority of participants. About 58% of survey respondents completed upgrades (top upgrades were windows, doors, heat pumps, and insulation), and almost 50% are planning future upgrades. During this quarter, the Bring it Home for Climate Program Administrator also conducted focus groups that showed the program was perceived as valuable by a number of demographic segments, even those not interested in acting to reduce emissions. The focus groups suggested that people need support for retrofits and most people want support. Results are informing the retrofit program design work, noted above.

Forty classrooms representing schools from across the region participated in the BC Sustainable Energy Association's (BCSEA) Cool It! Climate Leadership program. Funded by CRD (20 classrooms), District of Saanich (10 classrooms) and City of Victoria (10 classrooms), Grade 4 to 6 classes participated in online workshops designed to build students' climate change knowledge, followed by a four-week call-to-action challenge to reduce their energy consumption and carbon footprint at home with their families. This year, 860 students committed to 5,568 actions that will result in a projected savings of 160 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e annually, if continued for one year. Four classrooms with the highest challenge participation rates received an in-class or online celebration hosted by BCSEA staff.

In May 2021, staff presented the CRD's 2020 Climate Action Annual Report to the Environmental Services Committee, which articulated the climate action related accomplishments of CRD services over the past year.

With the recent announcement of the cancellation of the provincial Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program, staff coordinated with local governments across the region and the province to better understand impacts and share information on advocacy pathways. A staff report detailing the CRD perspective was presented to the Environmental Services Committee and CRD Board in June/July 2021.