

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019**

SUBJECT **Capital Regional District Climate Action – 2018 Reports**

ISSUE

To present the 2018 progress report associated with the Capital Regional District (CRD)'s Climate Action Program and the CRD 2018 Climate Action Annual Report associated with the CRD's Regional Climate Action Strategy.

BACKGROUND

The CRD signed the BC Climate Action Charter in 2007 and committed to achieving carbon neutrality within corporate operations by 2012. Concurrently, the CRD Board adopted a target in 2008 to reduce greenhouse (GHG) emissions 33% by 2020 from a base year of 2007. The Regional Growth Strategy includes a target to reduce GHG emissions by 61% by 2038, from a base year of 2007. In 2019, the CRD declared a climate emergency and is taking a leadership role towards reaching carbon neutrality by 2030.

CRD Climate Action Program

Reporting through the Parks & Environment Committee, the CRD established the Climate Action Program in 2009. The program, consisting of two FTEs, works to implement the Climate Action and Adaptation Service Establishment Bylaw, 2008, and directly supports stakeholders in five ways:

1. Assists local governments in reaching corporate and community climate action goals (emissions, reductions and climate adaptation), as part of legislative requirements under (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act - Bill 27 and voluntary commitments under the BC Climate Action Charter.
2. Provides scientific information, data and indicators related to local and regional GHG emissions and projected climatic impacts.
3. Builds awareness of climate change issues and catalyzes action through partnerships with public and private sectors, non-governmental organizations and community organizations.
4. Liaises with senior levels of government on climate change-related programs, policies and legislation.
5. Supports the CRD in fulfilling its own climate objectives and commitments, including climate-related strategic priorities.

The service also plays a critical coordination role and disseminates and translates relevant information for the Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group and Task Force of municipal and electoral area staff and elected officials, providing capacity building and professional development, and assisting CRD departments in incorporating climate action within service delivery.

A summary of 2018 projects and accomplishments specific to the community-focused Climate Action Program is attached as Appendix A.

Climate Action Across the Organization

From a corporate-wide perspective, the CRD Board endorsed the CRD's Corporate Climate Action Strategy in 2016, and in 2017 approved the Regional Climate Action Strategy.

Throughout 2018, staff across the organization focused on planning and policy initiatives, as well as implementation of projects and educational campaigns to contribute to corporate, local and regional climate goals.

A consolidation of the corporate and community-related actions is provided in the CRD Climate Action 2018 Annual Report (see Appendix B). The report satisfies the annual reporting requirements related to the CRD's Regional Climate Action Strategy, the CRD's Corporate Climate Action Strategy and the provincial Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) associated with the CRD's BC Climate Action Charter commitment.

Funded in part through the annual CARIP rebate, the CRD established a corporately-focused position to support the organization in meeting the CRD's corporate climate action objectives in 2015. Reporting on the CRD's progress toward corporate targets is completed through the Finance Committee. Reporting of corporate energy use, progress towards meeting the CRD's Corporate Climate Action Strategy and the CRD Climate Action 2018 Annual Report (Appendix B) will be presented to the Governance and Finance Committee at its June 5, 2019 meeting.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That the Parks & Environment Committee recommend to the CRD Board:

That the 2018 progress report associated with the CRD's Climate Action Program, and the CRD 2018 Climate Action Annual Report associated with the CRD's Regional Climate Action Strategy, be approved.

Alternative 2

That the Committee direct staff to provide further information.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In 2018, projects and programs delivered in the community across the region included, but are not limited to: completion of the CRD Oil to Heat Pump Top-Up Incentive Program and transition to the provincial EfficiencyBC program, completion of the Local Government Electric Vehicle and Electric Bike Infrastructure Planning Program, support for Cool It! Climate Leadership Training in local schools, and coordination of regional-scale National Disaster Mitigation Program grant application for sea level rise mapping and modelling. Further details are provided in Appendix A.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

In 2018, the annual requisition for the Climate Action Program was approximately \$382,000. The program relies heavily on external grants and partnerships to undertake community programming.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Climate action is critical for regional municipalities, electoral areas and the CRD. This is explicitly acknowledged through the Board's current strategic priorities and the recent climate emergency declaration, the numerous targets, policies and actions found in official community plans across the region, the Regional Growth Strategy and consecutive CRD corporate strategic plans. Climate change is a critical issue facing our region. The CRD Board identified climate action as a strategic priority, and CRD staff continue to take steps and identify opportunities to mitigate, adapt and reduce climate change impacts.

The Climate Action Program supports local governments and the CRD in reaching their mitigation and adaptation targets, policies and goals.

Previous and present Board strategic priorities and corporate plans highlight climate action and inform program deliverables. The Climate Action Program will continue to work with regional stakeholders to identify other climate action opportunities and initiatives.

CONCLUSIONS

The Climate Action Program provides a regional coordination function and supports local governments, the organization and the community on a variety of climate-related regulatory obligations, mitigation and adaptation projects, and education outreach initiatives.

The CRD currently holds two climate action strategies, one related to corporate assets and policy, the other to community services. Throughout 2018 the CRD completed or made progress toward actions identified in these strategies.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks & Environment Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the 2018 progress report associated with the CRD's Climate Action Program, and the CRD 2018 Climate Action Annual Report associated with the CRD's Regional Climate Action Strategy, be approved.

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

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Attachments: Appendix A – Climate Action Program – 2018 Progress Report
Appendix B – Capital Regional District 2018 Climate Action Annual Report