

**REPORT TO GOVERNANCE & FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2019**

SUBJECT **Corporate Climate Action – Annual Reporting**

ISSUE

To present the Capital Regional District (CRD) 2018 Operational Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions inventory and the CRD's 2018 Climate Action Annual Report, which identifies progress made toward meeting goals and targets of the CRD's Corporate Climate Action Strategy.

BACKGROUND

In 2008, the CRD signed the BC Climate Action Charter and committed to reducing operational GHG emissions to 33% below 2007 levels by 2020. In 2019, the CRD Board declared a Climate Change Emergency. Climate Action staff continue to look for opportunities to meet 2020 target levels going forward.

In 2016, the CRD Board approved the Corporate Climate Action Strategy, which provides a framework and roadmap to achieving the CRD's climate change commitments within corporate operations. A companion document, the Regional Climate Action Strategy, was approved in 2017. Reporting on progress toward the Regional Strategy was presented at the May 22, 2019 Parks & Environment Committee meeting.

In 2012, the CRD began reporting GHG emissions through the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP), a provincially funded conditional grant program that provides funding to BC Climate Action Charter signatories equivalent to 100% of the carbon taxes they pay directly. To be eligible for the program, Charter signatories must report publicly on their plan and progress toward meeting climate action goals, including progress toward carbon neutrality through an annual CARIP Survey.

The CRD has been carbon neutral in operations since 2012. Carbon neutrality has been achieved by applying historical carbon credits (pre-2015) that were generated through methane destruction from the Hartland Landfill gas capture system.

In 2018, the CRD's operational GHG emissions totalled 2,299 Tonnes CO₂-e, a nominal decrease from 2017 (2,332 Tonnes CO₂-e). This represents an 18% reduction from 2007 levels.

A summary of actions taken to reduce GHG emissions; progress towards the goals of the Corporate Climate Action Strategy; and detailed GHG emissions inventory can be found within the Climate Action Annual Report (Appendix A), which includes a dashboard summary of progress towards the Corporate Climate Action Strategy.

ALTERNATIVES

That the Governance & Finance Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

Alternative 1

That the CRD's 2018 Climate Action Annual Report be received for information.

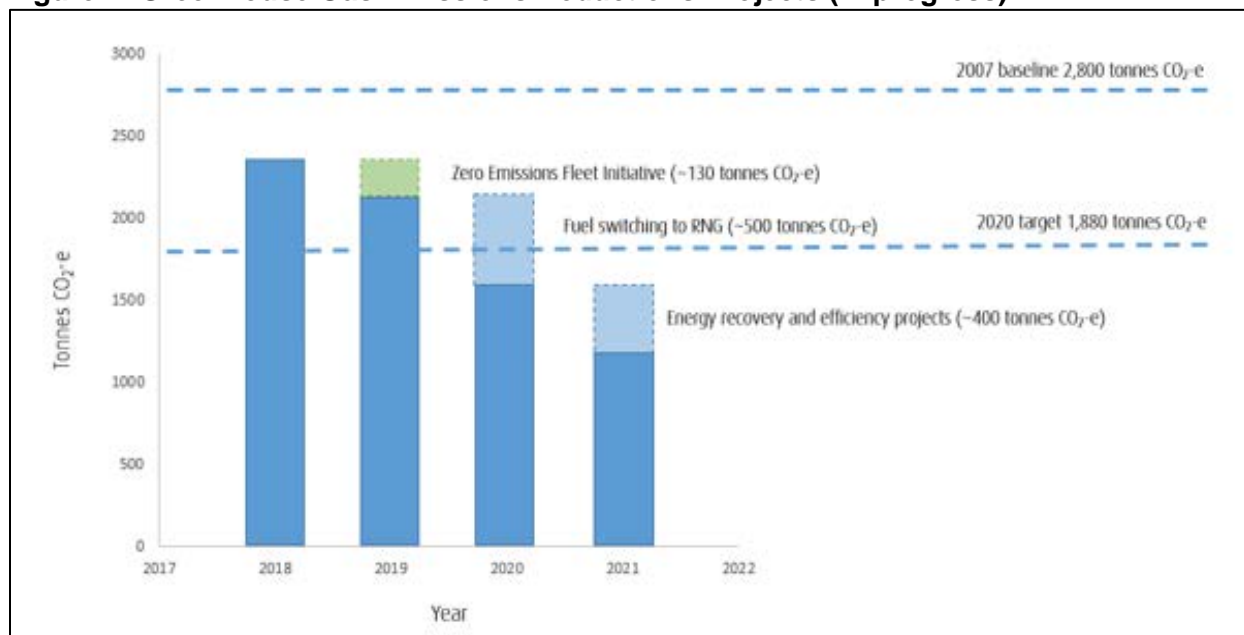
Alternative 2

That the CRD's 2018 Climate Action Annual Report be sent back to staff for more information.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

By working to reduce GHG emissions from operations, the CRD can reduce its contribution to climate change and demonstrate strategies for emissions reductions to others in the Region. The CRD's corporate climate action strategy identifies key initiatives to meet the CRD's GHG reduction target. If these initiatives are fully implemented, the CRD will achieve the 2020 GHG reduction target.

Figure 1: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions Projects (in progress)



FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The two key short-term initiatives identified in the corporate plan to meet our GHG reduction targets are the fuel switching to renewable natural gas and pursuit of the zero emission fleet initiative. Our buildings and our fleet account approximately 50:50 for our corporate emissions. There are no additional costs associated with the zero emission fleet initiative. The CRD secured \$350,000 from the Green Municipal Fund to leverage our own vehicle capital replacement funds and support the purchase of electric vehicles, six hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, and three electric

bikes. There is a concurrent telemetrics study with UVic that will inform future fleet assessments. Ongoing application of the program will see further emission reductions through vehicle replacement and fleet assessment that takes a triple bottom line approach.

Five main facilities account for the majority of the natural gas consumption of the organization (Panorama Recreation Centre, SEAPARC Recreation Centre, 479 Island Highway, 625 Fisgard Street and the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant). The fuel switching initiative should be viewed as a transition step to meet our corporate emission targets now and will cost an estimated \$90,000/year for 10,000 GJ of renewable natural gas consumption but will reduce our GHG emissions by 500 tonnes CO₂-e/year. Staff are applying the Climate Action Reserve Fund to complete energy studies at key facilities to reduce long-term energy costs. Energy recovery and efficiency projects are underway throughout the organization.

The CRD's 2018 CARIP rebate is expected to be approximately \$70,000. As the provincial carbon tax rate increased in April 2018, the CRD's carbon tax rebate has also increased, compared to 2017, despite a nominal decrease in emissions year over year. This rebate will be used to partially fund the corporate climate action analyst position located within the Parks & Environmental Services Department.

CONCLUSION

The CRD has identified climate change as a key strategic priority and continues to accelerate corporate mitigation and adaptation activities and work towards meeting GHG emissions reductions targets.

As a signatory to the BC Climate Action Charter, the CRD participates in the Provincial Climate Action Revenue Incentive Reporting Program. The CRD was carbon neutral in operational emissions in 2018, and continues to meet its Climate Action Charter Commitments.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Governance & Finance Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the Capital Regional District's 2018 Climate Action Annual Report be received for information.

Submitted by:	Glenn Harris, Ph.D., R.P.Bio., Senior Manager, Environmental Protection
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, CPA, CMA, Chief Financial Officer
Concurrence:	Kevin Lorette, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

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Attachment: Appendix A – CRD 2018 Climate Action Annual Report