



Making a difference...together

**OPEN CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021**

**APPENDIX D  
CORPORATE CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES**

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Staff submitted two comprehensive external grant applications to support climate action goals, as follows:

- *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Clean BC Communities Fund* grant for \$1,972,430 towards the Panorama Energy Recovery project. This project would utilize waste heat to displace the majority of natural gas used at Panorama Recreation Centre and reduce approximately 330 tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually.
- *Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund Community Efficiency Financing* grant of up to \$185,000 to complete a design study of a Regional Residential Energy Retrofit Program. This would include a third-party financing mechanism. Should the CRD be successful, staff would work with the CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group to undertake the study in 2021.

Staff launched the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Road Map project to better understand future charging station user needs and designs, and to find the opportunities for collaboration between regional fleet owners and other key stakeholders. The project, funded in part from a BC Hydro Sustainable Communities grant, will be completed in 2021 and used as an input for the CRD Climate Action Strategy update.

The Bring it Home for Climate pilot program to support climate home retrofits launched in mid-August 2020. As of November 27, this pilot program, supported by the CRD and Federation of Canadian Municipalities, has engaged 268 homeowners, completed 43 subsidized Virtual Home Check-ups, and 59 subsidized EnerGuide Assessments and hosted two public webinars on understanding heat pumps. The feedback on the program has been universally positive to date and staff are working with our partner organization on extending the program timelines.

Utilizing a grant-funded Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions student intern and support from staff at the Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) Pacific Forestry Centre, CRD completed a project that assessed the forest carbon sequestration potential of the region's forest lands. This first phase project utilized NRCan's carbon budget model to quantify potential and offer recommendations on forest management, considering carbon sequestration only. Staff hosted a webinar for interested local government and CRD staff to share key insights. Staff will continue to look for opportunities to further investigate this topic.

The CRD continued to support promotion of the provincial CleanBC Better Homes Rebates to regional homeowners and together with Victoria, Saanich, Central Saanich, North Saanich and Esquimalt to provide top-up incentives to encourage residents to switch to electric heat pumps from fossil fuel heating systems. Between September 2018 and September 2020, 376 CRD \$350 top-up incentives (305 from oil, 61 from natural gas and 11 from propane heating) have been processed and, as of this report, the remaining 50 have been allocated. The CRD continues to support continued promotions, and has seeded a Group Purchase Rebate Code, which offers an additional rebate opportunity to qualifying regional homeowners.

Staff attended and contributed input into the Community Resilience Summit held virtually on October 6, 2020. Led by the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Leadership Plan Steering Committee, the purpose of the Summit was to bring communities together to review the island in terms of resilience and current approaches to climate mitigation and adaptation and plan for action.

The CRD hosted its fourth annual Walk and Wheel Week to School on October 5 to 9, 2020. This kick-start campaign, held in partnership with Island Health and the CRD Traffic Safety Commission, works to encourage year-round active school travel across the region. Due to COVID-19, the event was adjusted to accommodate various student learning models. Thirteen interested schools received a guidebook, prize packs, stickers and tracking posters to celebrate the week.

In the past quarter, staff administered both a CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force and a CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group meeting to review current projects and initiatives, discuss priorities and share learnings related to regional climate action.