



Making a difference...together

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

**APPENDIX D  
CORPORATE CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES**

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Input from two dozen CRD services and the CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group and Task Force, staff developed a final draft Climate Action Strategy for the organization. The Strategy was presented to the Environmental Services Committee on September 29, 2021 for recommendation prior to Board approval. The strategy outlines how the CRD can influence, lead and support efforts to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate. It includes a renewed vision, principles, goal, greenhouse gas reduction targets and climate actions that the CRD will undertake within both its corporate operations and community-focused services over the next five years. Staff also presented the service implications associated with plan implementation.

CRD delivered a Capital Region Residential Energy Retrofit Business Case that offers costs and a design framework for achieving the emission reduction goals associated with the residential built environment. The business case recommends a regionally coordinated, subsidized and well-marketed program following a “One Stop Shop” model, with an initial focus on Part 9 (i.e., single family homes, duplexes and townhomes). The business case was a 2021 Board approved initiative and is included in the Climate Action Strategy action plan. Staff continue to work with an inter-municipal project team to further engage local contractors on opportunities and investigate third-party financing schemes as an additional program offering. This additional work is funded by a Federations of Canadian Municipalities Community Efficiency Financing Program ‘Design Study’ grant.

The CRD was awarded an honourable mention at this year’s Community Energy Association Climate & Energy Action Awards for the Bring it Home 4 the Climate program. Developed and supported by City Green Solutions, the CRD and municipal partners, the pilot program helps capital region homeowners connect with resources, rebates, and support to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon pollution in their homes. As it is a proven successful model, Bring It Home is being expanded and will be offered by municipalities in the lower mainland in the coming months. The program learnings have directly informed the business case, noted above.

In partnership with several municipalities, the CRD submitted an application to Natural Resources Canada’s Zero Emission Vehicle Awareness Initiative for \$224,000 in grant funding to support a regional campaign to increase awareness and public confidence in zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) and ZEV technologies. If successful, the project will employ a multi-pronged approach to increase public knowledge of the advantages of electric vehicle and electric bicycle ownership in the capital region through public outreach events and targeted capacity-building support in key groups, such as strata associations and trades practitioners.

This quarter, the CRD extended the contribution agreement with BC Hydro to receive funding to support the CRD's Community Energy Specialist position for another two-year term. The position was established in connection with mutually agreed upon set of deliverables. The updated work plan includes deliverables associated with the collaborative efforts of the CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group and CRD priorities (such as policy support, projects and regional capacity building related to new and existing buildings and electric vehicle adoption) and BC Hydro Community Energy Manager Network participation. The value of this contract represents funding of \$100,000 (\$50,000 per year) to support the regional efforts of the Climate Action Program. Staff had previously received Board approval to continue this two-year term position during 2021 service planning.

The CRD was approved for the CleanBC Go Electric Fleets EV Charging Facility Assessment rebate for the Integrated Water Services building at 479 Island Highway. As part of the corporate fleet EV infrastructure implementation plan, this site assessment will determine the equipment and cost requirements to develop the IWS building into a hub for up to 30 EVs by 2030.