



Making a difference...together

**OPEN CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022**

**APPENDIX D
CORPORATE CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES**

To execute actions identified within the CRD's CRD Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Roadmap and CRD Climate Action Strategy, staff have been working with municipal partners to advance a number of projects related to electric mobility, as follows:

The CRD was successful in receiving a \$224,000 federal grant from the Zero Emission Vehicle Awareness Initiative to launch a region-wide outreach campaign to encourage the adoption of EVs and electric bicycles (e-bikes). The campaign will consist of on-the-ground events that will deploy a mobile outreach unit comprised of EVs, e-bikes, and EV chargers, where the public will be able to interact with and learn about the technology through hands-on experiences. The project will also engage key sectors, including strata councils and trades practitioners (e.g., automobile mechanics), through planning support and capacity-building events. The project involves many municipal and community partners and the planning and development of the campaign has begun.

With the District of Saanich, staff submitted a grant request to the BC Hydro Sustainability Communities program to develop public EV charging installation guidelines to support private land owner/businesses to install public charging stations.

The CRD-led joint application with City of Victoria, Township of Esquimalt and Town of View Royal to the federal Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program was successful. This will provide \$460,000 for the installation of 110 electric vehicle chargers at 17 sites within the region, encompassing both corporate and public vehicle charging. Staff are actively negotiating the final contribution agreement, and will then administer the grant on behalf of partners, and begin installing the corporate chargers over the next two years.

The final results of the corporate-focused Zero Emissions Fleet Initiative was presented to the Board for information. This multi-year project was co-funded by a Federation of Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund (GMF).

Staff continued to work with program partners to offer the Bring It Home 4 Climate program, providing virtual support toward decarbonization retrofits in homes across the region. In addition, the CRD continued to promote BC's home heating fuel-switching rebate program with municipal partners, including hosting a Group Purchase Rebate code for the region and organizing a "Considering a Heat Pump" webinar.

Staff worked with several municipalities that have already adopted the BC Energy Step Code voluntarily to coordinate next phase Step Code industry consultation activities. This included one

webinar with municipalities, and two virtual engagement sessions with the building industry focused on Step Code acceleration pathway options.

Staff continued to work with BC Sustainable Energy Association to deliver the Cool It! Program, which provides climate action workshops to schools across the region. The contract is managed on behalf of several municipalities, with 25 regionally distributed workshops funded by the CRD and 43 additional workshops funded by municipalities (21 by Saanich, 15 by Victoria, and 7 by Central Saanich).

From a corporate buildings perspective, the CRD was successful in its application to the FCM GMF Community Building Retrofit Program. The \$148,400 grant will be used to develop a 20-year pathway to reduce carbon emissions by 80% in the CRD's prominent community buildings: Panorama Recreation Centre, SEAPARC Leisure Complex, and Rainbow Road Recreation Centre. This greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction pathway feasibility study will set the ground work for achieving the CRD's corporate emission reduction targets, as these three facilities contribute approximately 40% of total corporate GHG emissions from building operations. An energy study for the CRD Headquarters building was also completed. This identified both short-term energy efficiency improvements and larger GHG reduction retrofit projects to significantly reduce the carbon emissions of the building.

Finally, staff completed the annual corporate GHG emissions inventory and led the development of the 2021 CRD Climate Action Annual Report. This report will be presented to the Environmental Services Committee on April 20, 2022.