



Making a difference...together

**OPEN CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022**

**APPENDIX D
CORPORATE CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES**

Staff completed the procurement process to contract Waga Energy, through its subsidiary Hartland Renewable Resource Group, to design, build and operate a new CRD facility that will upgrade the biogas generated at Hartland Landfill to Renewable Natural Gas. Under this contract, Waga Energy will both design and build the new biogas upgrade facility and decommission the site's current landfill gas to electricity plant by September 2024. This project is expected to reduce the capital region's greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 450,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide over the next 25 years.

This summer, the CRD executed a region-wide outreach campaign called *Charge Your Ride* to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and electric bicycles (e-bikes). Thanks to a federal Zero Emission Vehicle Awareness Initiative grant, a team was able to directly engage over 3,800 residents at 20 community events and 3 large test drive and ride events across the region, building awareness around EVs, EV charging, and e-bikes. The CRD also offered four free e-bike courses at various locations throughout the region for residents to get more comfortable with riding an e-bike safely. The CRD collaborated with Capital Bike, the Victoria EV Association, and EmotiveBC to connect residents with experts and give them hands-on experiences. Staff also continued planning the second phase of the *Charge Your Ride* program with a focus on capacity building for electricians, automotive technicians, fleet managers and strata owners, starting this fall.

Staff participated in and provided feedback in two provincial policy initiatives. First, staff submitted a comprehensive response to the first formal review of the Provincial Zero Emissions Vehicle Act and Regulation. Staff collaborated with colleagues in the provincial Electric Vehicle Peer Network to ensure that the response reflects the needs of the region as the zero emissions vehicle market grows. Staff also participated in a stakeholder engagement reviewing provincial policy options that would require the efficiency of space and hot water systems to achieve a minimum of 100%. This regulation is aimed at significantly cutting fossil fuel use in the province. The province has signalled that it will be implemented by 2030, or earlier, where feasible.

Over this quarter, planning activities for the regional residential retrofit program advanced with staff consulting with and informing contractors about the upcoming service. The consultation confirmed that the service as designed will support retrofits in the region. A marketing design study was also undertaken to inform program branding. Staff led a procurement process for a third-party delivery agent, and City Green Solutions was the successful contractor. The program is expected to launch in late October, subsequent to the municipal election.

The CRD was successful in receiving \$150,000 through UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – 2022 Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning Grant Stream to support the Capital Region Extreme Heat Vulnerability Mapping Dashboard. This project was made possible thanks to a regional effort to stack grant funding from the CRD, City of Victoria, District of Saanich, Town of Sidney and City of Langford for this regional-scale project. The project aims to collect local data and indicators to develop a heat vulnerability mapping index to support regional and local emergency management and climate adaptation planning efforts. Staff will work closely with municipal partners, Island Health and community agencies to execute this project over the coming year.

With the financial support of a successful application to the Green Municipal Fund Community Building Retrofit Program, staff selected a consultant, completed site visits, and began the development of a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Pathway feasibility study for three CRD recreation centres: Panorama Recreation Centre, SEAPARC Leisure Complex and Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre. This study will identify energy and greenhouse gas-reducing opportunities in these three sites, with the goal of developing a pathway to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, in line with the targets of the CRD Climate Action Strategy.

In September, staff hosted 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.