

## UBCM Special Committee on Climate Action Recommendations

### BUILDINGS

#### **SIGNATURE INITIATIVE: Zero Emissions Housing and Low Carbon Retrofits**

UBCM should support a partnership between the provincial and federal governments to build a minimum of 100,000 zero emissions, wood-constructed new housing units (1/3 of BC housing starts) that are distributed across the province, affordable and local market appropriate, *and* 500,000 low carbon building retrofits (with at least half of those retrofits to be zero emissions) over the next 10 years, to:

- jump start climate action (both emissions reductions and resilience) in the building sector, with a view to reaching a goal of 100% zero emission buildings;
- support workforce training for zero-carbon construction;
- stimulate demand for advanced wood construction material; and
- move forward with strong action on housing affordability in our communities.

In this partnership, the federal and provincial governments would create the financing and policy framework (for both public and privately financed housing) while local governments would help ensure there is a sufficient policy framework, timely approval processes, community engagement, industry support, and appropriately zoned land to achieve the targets.

#### **SUPPORTING ACTIONS**

1. UBCM should work with the provincial government and member local governments to:
  - advocate for the addition of carbon metrics (e.g. GHG's) to the Energy Step Code as soon as possible; and
  - encourage individual local governments to give adequate notice to building industry by choosing levels on the energy efficiency STEP Code as soon as possible.
2. UBCM should continue to advocate for effective building retrofit incentive programs which:
  - are easy for building owners to navigate;
  - ensure that retrofit investments achieve maximum reductions in carbon emissions;
  - include financing program(s) that optimize payments relative to energy savings; and
  - work for all income levels.
3. UBCM should advocate for and participate in the development of a low carbon building step retrofit code, which sets standards for low carbon building retrofits. Work done as part of the retrofit code should consider climate resiliency issues (e.g., overheating of buildings in a warming climate), opportunities to produce energy and opportunities for

local government leadership (like the Energy Efficient Step Code). The code should be designed to be results based to support innovative solutions.

## TRANSPORTATION

### 1. **SIGNATURE INITIATIVE: World-Class Low Carbon Vehicle Charging Network**

Advocate for a partnership with the Province and Federal Government to build out a world-class low carbon vehicle charging network for BC by 2030, including

- 300,000 Level 2 EV home chargers;
- 50,000 workplace charging units;
- 25,000 Level 2 community charging ports (e.g. on-street, publicly accessible parking lots) strategically located throughout the province;
- 3,000 DC fast charging ports for cars, buses and trucks, strategically located throughout the province;
- retrofitting apartment and condo parking, so that at least 50% of stalls are EV ready; and
- a network of 30 hydrogen fuel cell stations by 2030 using locally produced green hydrogen.

### SUPPORTING ACTIONS

In order to support the creation of a world class low carbon vehicle charging network UBCM should advocate that the provincial government:

- provide streamlined standards for local governments to reference for electric vehicle charging requirements in buildings and parkades;
- work in partnership with local governments and homeowner associations on enabling Right-To-Charge to allow retrofitting of apartment and condo parkades;
- invest in green fleet conversions for local government and community fleets;
- invest in widespread industry training and retraining within communities for light, medium and heavy-duty transportation (e.g. centres of excellence, demonstration projects, educational institutes, and industry transition support); and
- ensure zero emission transportation options are accessible to more households, including low-income households.

Local governments should work towards creating an enabling framework for local bylaws affecting electric vehicles, including parking polices, that is respectful of regional differences.

Both local governments and the provincial government should recognize the need for zero-carbon and lower-carbon fuels for transportation, including electricity, renewable diesel, renewable gas, and natural gas as a transition fuel.

## **2. SIGNATURE INITIATIVE: World-Class Active Transportation Infrastructure & Strategy**

Call for the creation of world-class active transportation infrastructure in communities throughout BC, and accelerate the implementation of the provincial *Move, Commute, Connect Active Transportation Strategy*.

This initiative aims to:

- stimulate the economy through funding new active transportation infrastructure, with a goal of doubling the proportion of trips taken using active transportation in the Province by 2030;
- make life more affordable and build community resilience by providing world-class infrastructure for clean, healthy and inexpensive active modes of transport;
- support the Vision Zero strategy by creating safe, well-designed, separated cycling and walking infrastructure; and
- ensure that all new active transportation infrastructure is designed to enable people of all ages to walk, bike and roll safely.

### **SUPPORTING ACTIONS**

Advocate for the Province to fund and support world-class active transportation infrastructure by:

- providing funding to BC communities to accelerate the implementation of their active transportation plans in alignment with the BC Active Transportation Design Guide, BC's Active Transportation Strategy, and the *CleanBC* plan;
- creating financial incentives for individuals and businesses to invest in active transportation use and uptake (beyond the existing Scrap-It e-bike rebates);
- investing in inter-community active transportation corridors, also known as 'greenways', to create recreational and tourism opportunities;
- investing in end-of-trip active transportation facilities at transfer points (transit stations, ferry terminals, and airports);
- investing in improving the integration between active transportation and transit to support multi-modal low carbon mobility; and
- developing a provincial re-building strategy that seeks to strengthen transit funding models by creating new revenue tools for local governments that reduce the reliance on ridership fares.

## **LAND USE**

### **SIGNATURE INITIATIVE: Land-Use Planning for Vibrant, Compact & Complete Communities**

UBCM should work with the Province to assist local governments to meaningfully reduce greenhouse gas emissions through land use planning and the creation of housing

opportunities that will continue to create vibrant, complete, walkable, and energy efficient communities.

### **SUPPORTING ACTIONS**

Measures to achieve this include:

- increasing household occupancy, home sharing, secondary suites, laneway homes, garden and carriage suites;
- increasing the capacity to integrate transportation and land use plans; and
- collaboration on a toolkit that lays out how land use plans and policies can be used to reduce emissions while adapting to climate change risks.

## **SOLID WASTE**

### **SIGNATURE INITIATIVE: Management of Solid and Liquid Waste as Resources**

BC communities manage their solid waste and liquid waste separately as valuable resources by maximizing opportunities to reduce waste, minimizing contamination of material streams, exploring opportunities to generate clean energy, and continually finding new ways to use resources to their highest and best use.

### **SUPPORTING ACTIONS**

1. UBCM should work with the provincial government to enhance extended producer responsibility measures in support of the circular economy. Programs to reduce waste and to derive value from food products and construction demolition could be particular priorities.
2. UBCM should support the *Clean BC* target of continued 75 percent landfill gas capture and 95 percent of organic diversion
3. Local governments should collaborate and share best practices on innovative ways to reduce GHG's by deriving both energy and value from waste products through actions such as converting landfill gas, drawing heat from sewerage, creating energy from biosolids and utilizing organic waste for purposes such as soil enhancement or renewable gas production.
4. Local governments should continue to collaborate in order to devise and implement innovative, cost-effective solutions to reduce emissions from small landfills, such as greenhouse gas reducing surface covers, and biosolids.

## **RESILIENCE**

### **SIGNATURE INITIATIVE: Regional Climate Risk Assessments and Capital Plans**

UBCM should work with the Province to ensure that all BC local governments have the tools and resources to adopt risk assessments and associated long-term capital plans by 2030.

## SUPPORTING ACTIONS

1. UBCM should work the Province to ensure that regional climate risk assessments are completed.
2. UBCM should work with the Province to create a framework under which all local governments adopt adaptation plans by 2030, in order to increase community resilience. These should address risks identified in the regional risk assessment.

Adaptation plans will vary by community but could include:

- a local asset management plan and associated long-term capital plan for infrastructure resilience;
- using land use planning to mitigate exposure to climate-related risks;
- identifying actions to increase local food supply;
- identifying actions to increase urban tree cover;
- identifying actions to increase local energy resilience;
- identifying actions to reduce risk from extreme weather and natural disasters such as forest fires, flood, drought, and sea level rise; and
- identifying actions to increase social resilience.

Adaptation plans should:

- be done in consultation with community members, expanding on the work undertaken as part of Climate Ready BC toward the development of the Climate Adaptation and Preparedness Strategy;
  - contain appropriate links to mitigation reduction initiatives;
  - include clear action-oriented pathways for local government staff to implement in key areas of municipal operations; and
  - contain a common results-based reporting framework that provides clear feedback information on what is and is not working, so quick and effective adjustments can be implemented.
3. UBCM should advocate for a dedicated funding stream to support the development, and implementation of adaptation plans.
  4. UBCM should advocate that the provincial government ensure the resiliency of provincial programs and infrastructure critical to community well-being. This includes critical provincial roads and bridges, emergency management and flood prevention solutions.
  5. UBCM should work with BC Hydro and other energy providers on local generation and low carbon infrastructure, as part of integrated resource planning and implementation.

## **SOCIAL MOBILIZATION**

### **SIGNATURE INITIATIVE: Creating Climate Champions**

UBCM should help facilitate with the Province and NGOs a competition to select 10 different trial communities to engage their citizens on local climate action. Each community would select up to 10 neighborhoods to host up to 10 climate champions, each of whom would engage approximately 20 households in climate action.

This could scale up to 20,000 households involved collectively in developing local adaptation and mitigation solutions for their neighborhood, and help to meet local climate targets for low-carbon resilience.

Using evidence-based methods, a competition with practical goals for climate action by 2030 would garner media attention and a point of entry for local governments and citizens to imagine wider climate action, adaptable by any community to its local priorities.

Key elements might include:

- a 3<sup>rd</sup> party regional coordinating body or NGO to bridge to local government, organize networks of champions, and coordinate the contest;
- leveraging community hubs to support volunteers (e.g. community centres, schools, libraries, religious centres, and key businesses);
- recruiting and training of a network of climate champions including local citizens and youth;
- providing proven tools to support community champions; and
- evaluation of effectiveness and tangible outcomes.

## **GOVERNANCE**

### **SIGNATURE INITIATIVE: Re-energized Green Communities Committee**

UBCM should work with the Province to renew the Climate Action Charter through a re-energized Green Communities Committee under Section 6 of the Charter, focusing on:

- joint UBCM-provincial mitigation efforts to reduce emissions from buildings, transportation, land use, and waste;
- a structure for effective adaptation;
- recognition of regional diversity and building the future low carbon economy; and
- new decision-making tools for local governments including a clear means of determining the effectiveness of potential actions and a framework for measuring results.

This should include:

- up to date information and plans on reducing community level emissions;

- an accepted means for tracking emissions reductions and a carbon registry for storing and accessing data;
- an accepted means of comparing the carbon intensity of alternatives including such things as vehicle types (electric, CNG, hydrogen) and transportation modes;
- opt-in tools, following the successful model of the energy step code;
- targeted additional authority for local governments; and
- best practice guides, toolkits and other resources for local governments.

The newly re-energized Green Communities Committee should work with all orders of government and important partners in advancing a renewed Climate Action Charter.