

## **UBCM Special Committee on Climate Action** **Proposed Recommendations** **DRAFT Report**

### **Introduction**

British Columbia local governments can continue to build prosperous, fair, resilient communities by capitalizing on the opportunity of low carbon solutions that meet their unique context.

We can build communities where:

- All buildings are comfortable, leverage local resources and are low cost to operate
- All British Columbians have transportation choices, like an electric personal vehicle or public transit, and feel safe moving around the Province
- Across all sectors, we waste less and, when do create waste, we turn it into a clean resource
- Communities all across the province are safe, secure, and resilient to risks like wildfires, floods and extreme weather
- Residents and businesses are active partners with the local government in ensuring the safety of the community and building a vibrant low carbon economy
- We create opportunities for our local industries to build on their strengths while providing new training and employment opportunities as we create demand for British Columbia's innovative, sustainable products

### **UBCM Climate Committee - Representation, Homework, Debate, and Consensus**

The technical recommendations to achieve the above community benefits were developed through consensus by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities' (UBCM) Special Committee on Climate Action. This expert panel includes locally elected officials from all regions of the province supported by staff and expert advisors from NGOs, academia, and utilities.

The recommendations provide practical guidance to UBCM members so they can quickly design solutions that support their goals, help advance the provincial climate action strategy, while informing future UBCM collaboration and advocacy with other orders of government, ultimately ensuring that across the province local governments have fair access to tools and can choose climate actions for their community.

### **Implementation – Collaboration and Diversity**

The solutions detailed in the following pages were selected because of their potential to help communities across BC, from Fort St. John to Tofino, achieve the economic,

environmental, social and preparedness benefits outlined in the Province's CleanBC climate and economy plan.

BC communities already have working examples of most of what needs to be done. We have an opportunity to quickly and methodically scale those examples up so that all communities have access to both solutions and benefits. We will continue to build on these solutions and to be open to innovations, ideas, and practices.

Done well, we will address the risk of climate change while creating new opportunities for our province's impressive research community, innovative entrepreneurs and well-trained workforce.

Done collaboratively, we will achieve our goals of reduced emissions and increased resiliency for all BC communities, while simultaneously and strategically creating products and services to export to the world.

## Buildings

### Signature Initiative

1. UBCM should support a partnership (between the provincial and federal governments) to build 100,000 zero emission, wood-constructed new housing units that are affordable/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;
  - support workforce training for zero-carbon construction;
  - stimulate demand for advanced wood construction materials, 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 ensure there was sufficient appropriately-zoned land to achieve the targets.

### Supporting Actions

2. 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; 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.
3. UBCM should advocate for an effective building retrofit incentive program that:
  - is easy for building owners to navigate;

- ensures retrofit investments achieve maximum reductions in carbon emissions;
  - includes a financing program that matches payments to energy savings; and,
  - works for all income levels.
4. 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 Energy Efficient Step Code).

The code should be designed to be results-based to support innovative solutions.

## Transportation

### Signature Initiative

5. Advocate for (or partner with) the Province and Federal Governments for an initiative 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,
  - 30,000 community charging stations for low carbon vehicles (5,000 of would be “fast-charging stations”), strategically located throughout the Province, and
  - Retrofitting apartment and condo parking, so that at least 50% of stalls are EV ready.

### Supporting Actions

6. 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 vehicles 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 our communities for light, medium and heavy-duty transportation (e.g. Centre’s of Excellence, Demonstration Projects in every part of the Province, invest in educational institutes, industry transition support); and,
  - Ensure zero emission transportation options are accessible to more households, including low income households.

7. Local governments should work towards creating an enabling framework for local bylaws affecting electric vehicles, including parking polices, that is respectful of regional differences, but which still works towards harmonization.
8. Both local governments and the Provincial government should recognize the need for lower carbon fuels, including natural gas and biogas as a transition fuel.

## **Waste Management**

### Signature Initiative

9. By 2030, BC communities manage their solid waste and liquid waste as resources, maximizing opportunities to generate clean energy (such as renewable natural gas, electricity and heat) and continually finding new ways to use what is now considered to be waste in the creation of new products.

### Supporting Actions

10. UBCM should work with the provincial government to enhance producer and consumer stewardship measures, in support of the circular economy. Measures to derive value from food products and construction demolition could be particular priorities.
11. UBCM should support the Clean BC target of continued 75 per cent landfill gas capture and 95 per cent of organic diversion.
12. 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 biogas production.
13. Local governments should continue to collaborate in order to devise and implement innovative, cost-effective solutions to reduce emission from small landfills, such as using dried biosolids as a greenhouse gas reducing surface cover.

## **Resilience**

### Signature Initiative

14. 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

15. UBCM should work the Province to ensure that regional climate risk assessments are completed.
16. UBCM should work with the Province to create a framework under which all local governments adopt adaptation plans by 2030. 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 forest fire;
- Identifying actions to increase social resilience.

Adaptation plans should:

- be done in consultation with community members;
- 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,
- 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.

17. UBCM should advocate for a dedicated funding stream to implement adaptation plans.
18. 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 containment infrastructure.
19. UBCM should work with BC Hydro and other energy providers on role of local generation and low carbon infrastructure, as part of integrated resource planning and implementation.

## Governance

### Signature Initiative

20. UBCM should work with British Columbia to renew the Climate Action Charter

through a re-energized Green Communities Committee under section 6 of the charter, focused on:

- joint UBCM/Provincial mitigation efforts to reduce emissions from buildings, vehicles and waste;
- a structure for effective adaptation;
- recognition of regional diversity and building the future low carbon economy;
- 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 valid information on community level emissions;
- 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;
- best practice guides, toolkits and other resources for local governments.

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

## **Social Mobilization**

### Signature Initiative

21. 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 at least 20 households in climate action.