

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY

Local Governments throughout the province are actively involved in initiatives related to sustainable communities, climate change and energy. Communities large and small have engaged in a wide variety of projects intended to: plan 'smart communities', reduce the negative environmental effects of development, retrofit existing community infrastructure, redirect demand for energy from renewable sources, draw energy from waste and, in general, reduce the carbon footprint of communities.

The following overview of some of the initiatives undertaken by BC Local Governments is organized into focus areas, based on the primary focus on each project:

- Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Reduction
- Transportation
- Community Planning
- Green Buildings
- Community Energy Planning
- Clean/Renewable Energy Production
- Solid Waste Management / Landfill Gas Recovery

In addition to individual projects, many Local Governments throughout the province are active participants in the following provincial and national level programs:

Community Action on Energy Efficiency Initiative (CAEE)

The Community Action on Energy Efficiency initiative is a one-year pilot program that provides financial and research support to BC local governments in advancing energy efficiency of private sector development as well as community-owned buildings.

30 Current Members: Atlin, Capital Regional District, City of Abbotsford, City of Burnaby, City of Campbell River, City of Dawson Creek, City of Fort St John, City of Kamloops, City of Kelowna, City of Merritt, City of New Westminster, City of North Vancouver, City of Port Moody, City of Quesnel, City of Surrey, City of Vancouver, City of Victoria, District of Central Saanich, District of Houston, District of North Vancouver, District of Saanich, District of Squamish, District of Vanderhoof, Islands Trust (Salt Spring Island), Municipality of Bowen Island, Regional District of Central Kootenay, Regional District of Nanaimo, Town of Oliver, Town of Smithers, and Village of Kaslo.

Partners for Climate Protection, Federation of Canadian Municipalities

The Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program is a network of 151 Canadian municipal governments who have committed to reducing greenhouse gases and acting on climate change.

48 Current Members: Abbotsford, Anmore, Belcarra, Bowen Island, Burnaby, Central Kootenay Regional District, Central Okanagan Regional District, Comox Strathcona Regional District, Coquitlam, Dawson Creek, Delta, Duncan, Fernie, Gibsons, Greater Vancouver Regional District, Hudson's Hope, Invermere, Kamloops, Kelowna, City of Langley, Township of Langley, District of Lantzville, Lions Bay, Maple Ridge, District of Mission, North Vancouver City, District of North Vancouver, District of Nanaimo, City of Nanaimo, New Westminster, Pitt Meadows, Port Alberni, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Prince George, Qualicum

Beach, Quesnel, Revelstoke, Richmond, Saanich, District of Squamish, Surrey, Vancouver, Victoria, District of West Vancouver, Whistler, and White Rock.

E3 Fleet Program

E3 Fleet is a new program to provide services and resources to help Canadian private and public sector fleets increase fuel efficiency, reduce emissions, manage expenses, incorporate new technologies and use alternative fuels.

10 Current Members: City of Coquitlam, City of North Vancouver, City of Vancouver, City of Williams Lake, City of Kelowna, Corporation of Delta, District of Maple Ridge, Resort Municipality of Whistler, Township of Langley and District of Saanich

Green Buildings BC for Local Governments

A provincial initiative enabling Local Governments to dramatically increase the performance of their new and existing buildings through new construction or retrofitting programs.

3 Pilot Communities: City of New Westminster, City of Campbell River, and Regional District of Central Kootenay.

Turn It Off Challenge

BC Hydro's Turn It Off Challenge runs from June 1, 2007 to the end of August. Local government employees are challenging each other to conserve electrical energy in the facilities they work in.

66 Local Governments Participating.

Focus on Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Reduction

City of Vancouver – Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Targets Resolution
Greater Vancouver Regional District - Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy
District of Elkford - Solar Powered Sewage Lagoon Circulator
City of North Vancouver – Greenhouse Gas Local Action Plan
District of Lillooet – Solar Municipal Pool
City of Port Coquitlam - Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Action Plan
City of Prince George - Local Action Plans – Planning Study
City of North Vancouver - Sustainable Community Planning - Energy Management and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction
District of Saanich – Carbon Neutral Municipal Operations in 2008

Focus on Transportation

Resort Municipality of Whistler -Whistler Car Sharing Feasibility Study
Greater Vancouver Regional District - Station Car Pilot Program
City of Vancouver - The ComPASS: A Community Universal Transportation Pass
City of Vancouver - Sustainable Transportation in South East False Creek
City of Kelowna – RD of Central Okanagan - Derived Transportation Bio-Fuels Study
City of Kelowna - Central Okanagan Smart Transit Plan

City of Burnaby - Transit Station Precinct Parking Study
District of Saanich -Saanich TDM Plan
Greater Vancouver Regional District - Trolley Bus Replacement Project
City of Quesnel – OCP Urban Transportation Policies

Focus on Community Planning

District of North Vancouver – Maplewood Community Eco-Industrial Project
City of New Westminster – Smart Growth Development Checklist
City of Surrey – East Clayton Neighbourhood Concept Plan – Green Infrastructure
City of Surrey - Management Mechanisms to Encourage and Structure Ground-source Heating in Grandview Heights
City of Coquitlam – Northeast Coquitlam OCP - Transit Oriented Community
City of Revelstoke - Revelstoke Community Environmental Strategy
City of Richmond - Industrial Development Incorporating Ecological Design
District of 100 Mile House - Sustainable Community Servicing Plan
City of Vancouver – EcoDensity Initiative
District of Squamish - Downtown Neighbourhood Plan – Smart Growth
Village of Kaslo - Official Community Plan – Smart Growth
Village of Silverton - Official Community Plan – Smart Growth
City of Vernon Official Community Plan Review - Smart Growth
Cowichan Valley Regional District - Joint OCP and Zoning Bylaw for Shawnigan Lake and Cobble Hill – Smart Growth
District of Tofino Local Area Plan – Smart Growth
District of Maple Ridge – Smart Growth on the Ground
Town of Oliver and Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen –Greater Oliver Smart Growth on the Ground
City of Victoria - Dockside Green
District of Saanich – New Development Sustainability Checklist

Focus on Green Buildings

Township of Langley - LEED certified Civic Centre
Cariboo Regional District - Geo-exchange Ice Rink
City of Richmond - Sustainable High Performance Building Policy
City of White Rock – Municipal Operations Centre
City of North Vancouver – Green Building Policy for Civic Buildings (LEED)
Greater Vancouver Regional District – BuildSmart Green Building Program
City of Vancouver – Green Building Strategy
District of Saanich – Municipal Green Building Policy (LEED)
District of Saanich – Private Sector Green Building Policy (BuiltGreen)

Focus on Community Energy Planning

Capital Regional District - Community Energy Planning
Kanaka Bar First Nation - Preliminary Energy Planning Work
City of Kamloops – Community Energy Plan
City of Prince George - Community Energy System Feasibility Study
City of Vancouver – Southeast False Creek Community Energy Plan

Focus on Green Energy Production

District of West Vancouver - Eagle Lake Water Supply, Pilot Green Generation Project
City of Port Coquitlam - Generate Electricity from Water Main PRV Stations
City of North Vancouver - District Energy, Distributed Generation Feasibility
City of Nanaimo - Green Hydroelectric Power Production from Domestic Water Supply
District of Kitimat - Geo-Thermal Technology Feasibility Study
Village of Massett - Wind Power Feasibility Study
Resort Municipality of Whistler - Ground Source Heat Pump Feasibility Study
Greater Vancouver Regional District - Feasibility of Using GVRD Sewers as Heat Sources and Heat Sinks
Greater Vancouver Regional District - Feasibility Study for the District Heating Project at the GVRD Incinerator
City of Port Alberni - China Creek Micro Hydro Project
City of North Vancouver - Lonsdale district heating system
City of Kelowna - Okanagan College Heat Recovery System
City of Vancouver - South-East False Creek District Energy System
City of Revelstoke – Community Energy Project – biomass/district heating system

Focus on Solid Waste Management

Regional District of Nanaimo - Cedar Road Landfill Gas Utilization Study
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George - Landfill Gas Utilization Feasibility Study
City of Kelowna - Sustainable Bioreactor System
Greater Vancouver Regional District - Feasibility Study of Landfill Gas Collection and Utilization at Cache Creek
Fraser Valley Regional District - Alternate Waste Disposal System for the FVRD
Capital Region District and partners - Characterization of Landfill Methane Generation and Fugitive Emissions
Regional District of Kootenay Boundary - Organics Recovery Feasibility Study
City of Vancouver - Vancouver Landfill Gas Utilization
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George - Gas Capture and Flare, Hart Road Landfill Site
Capital Regional District - Hartland Landfill, Landfill Gas Utilization
Delta and Vancouver – Municipal / Private Landfill Gas Utilization Project
Greater Vancouver Regional District - Waste-to Energy Facility

Barriers

Local Governments, through their participation in the variety of projects identified here, have contributed to the production of case studies and best practices for policies and practices related to greenhouse gas reduction in community level efforts.

Available documentation from Local Governments suggests the following barriers:

- Lack of staff resources, time and expertise to develop, implement projects and/or secure the available funding;
- Funding for municipal staff to focus on these programs, possible regionally supplied expertise and training;
- Lack of coordinated support from federal and provincial governments

- Short /insufficient timelines to complete programs/implementation or to achieve major policy change at a local level;
- Limited number of technical experts/consultants available for assistance;
- Need for website with technical and resident information experts;
- Need for hands on, interpretive assistance;
- Perceived resistance to implementation from developers/builders, few trained builders; and
- Requirements of the BC Building Code limit local ability to enact changes.

It is interesting to note that other than the Building Code, the available case studies do not cite barriers arising from legislation.

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