

## GREEN COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE UPDATE

At the 2007 UBCM Convention, local governments, UBCM and the Province demonstrated their shared commitment to take action on climate change by signing onto The BC Climate Action Charter. The Partners to the Charter agreed to establish a Joint Provincial-UBCM Green Communities Committee (GCC) and Working Groups to:

- identify a range of actions that can affect climate change;
- build local government capacity to plan and implement climate change initiatives;
- support local governments in taking actions on becoming carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2012; and
- share information to support climate change activities.

Early in 2008, the GCC established the terms of reference for three working groups:

- The **Carbon Neutral Working Group** will determine a common understanding of carbon neutrality for the purposes of the BC Climate Action Charter (including defining the scope and breadth of local government operations) and identify carbon neutral strategies for BC Communities.
- The **Urban Strategies and Actions Working Group** will develop actions and strategies that could be employed by urban local governments in reducing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions.
- The **Small Communities Strategies and Actions Working Group** will develop actions and strategies that could be employed by small communities in reducing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions.

The GCC and the Working Groups have met regularly throughout 2008. UBCM is providing this update to our members to share some significant milestones in the ongoing work of the GCC.

### Carbon Neutral Strategies Website Launched

The GCC launched the *BC Climate Action Toolkit* (<http://www.toolkit.bc.ca/>) at UBCM's 2008 Convention. The new website features the latest news, best practices and practical advice to help BC local governments take action on climate change and successfully reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The goal of the Toolkit is to support local governments, both large and small, to take actions that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from corporate operations and community-wide activities. Since many BC local governments have already undertaken steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on both fronts, the Toolkit provides a platform to share best practices knowledge between communities. It is expected that the BC Climate Action Toolkit will be a dynamic website that will grow and change in response to feedback provided by local governments and developments within the work of the GCC.

### Request For Feedback: Carbon Neutral Boundaries

One of the most important tasks of the GCC is to develop a common understanding of the boundaries for the calculation of carbon neutrality from local government corporate operations. Local Governments signing on to the Climate Action Charter have pledged to become carbon neutral by 2012. A summary of the carbon neutral boundaries proposed by the GCC is posted on the Climate Action Toolkit at:

*Please make copies of this circular and distribute to Council/Board Members /Staff.*

<http://toolkit.bc.ca/carbon-neutral-government>

The GCC is inviting feedback from local governments regarding the proposed carbon neutral boundaries. To facilitate dialogue on the proposal, the GCC will host a Live Meeting to review the recommendations and answer questions. The Live Meeting platform will allow all participants with high-speed Internet access to view the same material on their computer screens while

participating in a teleconference. To assist us in preparations for hosting the Live Meeting, please **RSVP by Friday Oct. 31, 2008.**

The GCC is also inviting written comments on the proposed boundaries. **The deadline for submitting comments to the GCC is November 30, 2008.** Please send to [gcc@civicnet.bc.ca](mailto:gcc@civicnet.bc.ca)

### Carbon Neutral Boundaries Live Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2008  
9:00 – 10:30 AM

**Facilitators:** Colleen Sparks, Director, Carbon Neutral Operations, BC Climate Action Secretariat  
Jared Wright, Senior Policy Analyst, UBCM  
Alex Boston, Climate and Energy Director, HB Lanarc

**RSVP** [iheskethboles@civicnet.bc.ca](mailto:iheskethboles@civicnet.bc.ca)

#### Instructions:

##### 1. Internet (viewing):

- Click on the meeting URL (Web link) to join the meeting.
  - ➔ URL: <https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/bcgovpro/join?id=R8GFK3&role=attend>
- Enter the Meeting ID and click "Join Meeting"
  - ➔ Meeting ID: R8GFK3
- Enter your email, local government name and click "Join Meeting"
- If the "Installation page" appears, click on "Use Web Console" box
- Click on "Re-enter Meeting" box to enter meeting (your name will appear on left side of the page).

##### 2. Teleconference (listening):

- Call audio-conferencing line at: 1(866) 596-5277 and enter participant code 2382678 when prompted

##### 3. For assistance, visit Live Meeting Help and Support:

[http://r.office.microsoft.com/r/rlidLiveMeeting?p1=7&p2=en\\_US&p3=LMInfo&p4=support](http://r.office.microsoft.com/r/rlidLiveMeeting?p1=7&p2=en_US&p3=LMInfo&p4=support)

### Carbon Incentive Grant

Premier Gordon Campbell unveiled the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program at UBCM's 2008 Convention, a new conditional grant equal to what local governments pay in the carbon tax. The grant will be available to all local governments who have signed onto the Climate Action Charter and who commit to becoming carbon neutral by 2012. The grant is also conditional on local governments publicly reporting on their plan to achieve carbon neutrality and progress made in meeting that goal.

If local governments meet these conditions they will be eligible to receive a grant equal to will return 100% of local governments' carbon tax costs.

UBCM will be working with the Ministry of Community Development, the Climate Action Secretariat and the Ministry of Finance to develop a framework to accurately track what local governments pay annually in carbon tax. Subject to legislative approval next February, all eligible local governments will receive a grant by March 31, 2009.