



**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2016**

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**SUBJECT**     **CRD Climate Action Update – Response to Chair's Draft Climate Change Report**

**ISSUE**

To update the Environmental Services Committee (ESC) on the progress of Capital Regional District (CRD) climate action initiatives in response to the release of the ESC Chair's draft Climate Change Report.

**BACKGROUND**

The CRD Environmental Services Department received the ESC Chair's draft Climate Change Report on May 25, 2016 and referred it to the CRD Roundtable on the Environment and all other standing committees of the CRD for review and comment.

**Regional Climate Action**

As Chair Derman's report highlights, the region must address climate change by significantly reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and by preparing for, and adapting to, a changing climate. Working towards these objectives within the CRD's mandate, the Climate Action Program has a number of regional mitigation and adaptation initiatives underway, including, but not limited to:

1. Development of the CRD Regional Climate Action Strategy (RCAS), formerly the CRD Climate Action Blueprint or CRD Community Climate Action Strategy. The RCAS is a requirement of the gas tax obligations associated with the CRD Regional Growth Strategy, formerly the Regional Sustainability Strategy.

The purpose of the RCAS is to offer an approach on how the CRD can support community-focused regional climate mitigation and adaptation goals over the coming years, and prioritize any near-term actions. The Climate Action Program is responsible for drafting and reporting on the RCAS. Internal staff consultations have been conducted to determine the specific actions that CRD community-supporting services are currently undertaking and could undertake to assist local governments and regional stakeholders.

To move the project forward, the CRD has hired Pinna Sustainability Inc. (Pinna) as a consultant with a budget of \$30,124.50. Pinna has experience working with more than 30 BC municipalities and regional districts, and expertise in corporate and community energy and emissions planning, strategic planning processes, and adaption planning. The next steps of the project are:

- Consultations on June 17, 2016 with the CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Steering Committee and Working Group, and the CRD Roundtable on the Environment.

- Analysis of the current climate action activities of the CRD's community-supporting services, identifying gaps and priority actions.
  - Writing and preparing the RCAS. The draft RCAS will be presented to the Environmental Services Committee on September 28, 2016 and then forwarded to the Planning, Transportation & Protective Services Committee and the CRD Board.
  - The deadline for a final draft RCAS is December 31, 2016, as per gas tax funding reporting requirements.
2. Promotion of the Provincial Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program to capital region residents to offer an additional 125 top-up incentives to residents on a first-come, first-served basis. The program encourages homeowners to replace oil tanks with electric heat pumps, one of the most impactful ways to reduce home heating GHG emissions. Co-benefits of the program include protecting our fresh water and marine environments and helping residents avoid costly oil spills and save energy.
3. Recruitment of 100 capital region drivers for the pilot Smart Drive Challenge. Over 550 drivers from the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, Capital Regional District and Metro Vancouver will participate in this study. The Smart Drive Challenge is designed to engage, educate and reward participants to reduce their fuel use and related GHG emissions by at least 15% through the adoption of efficient driving behaviour. Drivers are also encouraged to reduce their overall driving impact through the use of alternative modes of transportation. Next steps include:
- Continued promotion of the Smart Drive Challenge until the end of June.
  - Select participants based on the municipality they live in to ensure a regional distribution.
  - Review the results and successes. This pilot may inform future projects and/or the expansion of the Smart Drive Challenge to a multi-year program.
4. Review the Planet Protector Academy program, a digital-led educational resource developed by non-profit DreamRider Productions and offered by the CRD to Grade 3-6 teachers (free-of-charge). The program teaches students to be "apprentice" Planet Protectors and sends them home on missions to change their families' habits as they relate to energy use and GHG emissions. Next steps include:
- Receive participating teachers' final reports, which will include any behaviour changes resulting from program participation.
  - Based on the results of the final reports:
    - Launch the program again in the fall; and/or
    - Look for opportunities to improve the program (i.e., build on the lessons to make them regionally specific); or
    - Investigate other educational programs.
5. Lead a regional Downscaled Climate Projections Study. Working with local governments and internal CRD staff, the Climate Action Program will lead the effort to scope and refine climate projection data for the region. The results would help the region's planners, engineers and land-use managers better understand precipitation and temperature-related predictions for climate adaptation planning. The next steps of the project are:
- Look for opportunities for additional CRD services to collaborate on the Downscaled Climate Projections Study.

- Finalize the domains and indices for analysis.
- Enter into an agreement with the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium to undertake the study.

### **Corporate Climate Action**

To accelerate CRD corporate mitigation and adaptation activities, the Board approved a Corporate Climate Action Analyst position that is based in the Technology & Initiatives Department. The analyst will continue to support a number of corporate policies, procedures and projects that are underway, including:

1. Development of a draft CRD Climate Framework for Corporate Operations 2015-2018.
2. Development of procedures for the use of CRD vehicles and equipment to reduce operational costs and GHG emissions through the collection, monitoring and reporting of vehicle use data. The next steps of this project are:
  - Investigate an electric vehicle feasibility study
  - Investigate better methods to track vehicle fuel consumption data, which would allow for GHG emissions reporting
3. Development of policies and procedures for new and existing buildings, and infrastructure to reduce energy consumption, lifecycle costs and GHG emissions.
4. Continued utilization of an energy management system, implemented in CRD facilities in 2015, to monitor energy and water consumption. The next step for this project is:
  - Find additional opportunities for energy and water savings, and use the energy management system data to improve the accuracy and efficiency of reporting for the Provincial Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program.
5. Development of a tender selection criteria and matrix to ensure capital decision-making aligns with CRD climate-related policies.
6. Support CRD staff with grant applications and other external funding opportunities (e.g., utility program incentives) to further reduce GHG emissions, conserve energy and save money. For example, SEAPARC is undertaking a lighting retrofit with funding from BC Hydro and a boiler retrofit with funding from FortisBC. The next step for this project is:
  - Support the development of business cases to encourage a shift to less energy-intensive service delivery.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

There are several initiatives and projects underway with the CRD mandate to address many of the points referenced in the Chair's draft Climate Change Report. A majority of the comments can or will be considered through feedback from the RTE, any comments from other standing committees, as well as through implementation of service plans. Staff will continue to update standing committees and the Board on progress towards climate action within the region through their respective services.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Environmental Services Committee receive this report for information.

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