

CRD BOARD ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES TO SENIOR LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT ACCELERATED CLIMATE ACTION

February 2019

The following is a list of some of the further advocacy opportunities that the Capital Regional District (CRD) may consider for the provincial government:

- Regional and local governments do have the ability to influence greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions across their communities through many existing authorities, however, lack of resources remains a significant barrier. As such, the provincial governments should continue and expand direct funding programs and partnerships with regional and local governments related to low carbon building retrofits, zero-emission transportation, waste management and processing, adapted and low carbon community infrastructure and other local government influenced priority areas.
- Provide governance and resourcing to allow for regional transportation funding models, infrastructure investments, operating funds; respond to disruptive technologies; and implement the CRD's Regional Transportation Plan, Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan and the BC Transit Futures Plan.
- Amend the Local Government Act to allow regional governments to set aside funds from sources that relate generally to the region-wide tax base, revenue-generating services, and services that through their operation generate GHG emissions for programs to reduce GHG emissions, on the basis that the benefit of GHG reduction and achieving carbon neutrality is an overall benefit to all residents of the Regional District, and that Regional Districts identify GHG reduction targets within Regional Growth Strategies.
- Ensure voluntary leadership activities to ban organics from landfills are rewarded by structuring funding programs and emissions offset protocols to promote and support continued and future local government action on organics diversion.
- Enable expanded regulatory authority for local governments to allow for the:
 - expanded and streamlined mechanisms for local and regional governments to reduce the capital cost barrier for residents undertaking energy retrofits and other climate investments (e.g., through property assessed financing, local improvement charge financing or other financial tools)
 - regulation of building performance standards that are associated with GHG emission reductions
- Provide robust and consistent data to support regional, municipal and neighbourhood GHG emissions and energy planning efforts. As such, require:
 - utilities to provide neighbourhood scale/building type disaggregated data
 - ICBC to provide all vehicle km/make/model/fuel economy information by municipality
 - development of fulsome and frequent community energy and emissions inventories

- Fully implement the Province of BC's CleanBC Plan to achieve 75% of its emissions targets by 2030; and:
 - establish a province-wide energy benchmarking for commercial and institutional buildings
 - establish a provincial time-of-sale energy labelling program for residential and commercial buildings
 - develop and implement leading low carbon fuel standards
 - develop and support local government adoption of a building retrofit code, with both energy and GHG performance standards, and provide a provincial-scale financing mechanism for households to support deep energy retrofits
 - establish technical standards for all new publicly-funded (local government) construction to ensure consistent high-energy performance and low-carbon criteria are incorporated into facility design
 - align grant program specifications (housing, infrastructure) with building-related policies, and other building and infrastructure best practices
 - establish technical standards for all new publicly-funded construction (at all levels of government) to ensure consistent high-energy performance and low-carbon criteria are incorporated into facility design
- Work with regional and local governments to develop and implement the second phase of the CleanBC plan to achieve the remaining 25% of provincial emissions, specifically on the topics related to:
 - reducing and making better use of waste
 - improving community planning, active transportation and transit
 - meeting our demand for clean electricity
 - maintaining a resilient agricultural sector
- Greatly increase support (including human resources, data and funding) to First Nations, local and regional governments to better understand climate change impacts and reduce risks related to climate change across their communities. Lead and support the development of provincial and community scale:
 - climate impact risk and vulnerability assessments
 - flood and other hazard mapping and modelling
 - adaptation strategies and tools
 - risk mitigation/preparedness implementation programs
- Refresh the BC Climate Action Charter to ensure local and regional governments can better inform, support and implement climate actions in alignment with CleanBC plans and forthcoming provincial adaptation priorities.

The following is a list of some of the further advocacy opportunities for the federal government:

- Fully implement the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change and increase federal government efforts, in order to limit global warming to 1.5° C.

- Partner with and support to local and regional governments on climate action efforts related to:
 - green job creation
 - low carbon economic development opportunities
 - low carbon and climate adapted infrastructure renewal
 - environmental stewardship activities
 - energy efficiency programs that support housing affordability
 - emergency management and disaster mitigation programs
- In alignment with FCM's Big City Mayors' Caucus meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in January 2019:
 - enhance the relationship between the federal government and municipalities
 - provide a permanent funding mechanism to support public transit
 - continue and provide a significant increase to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund