

**CRD BOARD ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES TO SENIOR LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT
TO SUPPORT ACCELERATED CLIMATE ACTION
March 2019**

Regional and local governments 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. Senior level of governments can also enact and adjust local government regulatory powers in support of community-focused climate action efforts.

The following is a list of some of the initial advocacy opportunities that the Capital Regional District (CRD) may consider for senior levels of government. It is anticipated that additional analysis and consultation with regional, local and provincial stakeholders would result in the refinement and addition of further advocacy opportunities.

It is proposed that the CRD Board Chair write a letter to the Premier of British Columbia in regard to provincial policies and programs and to the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change in regard to federal action, and that the CRD Board Chair send a motion to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) for their consideration, as articulated in Part 1, #1-3 below.

PART 1

1. 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.
2. Fully implement the Province of BC's CleanBC Plan to achieve 75% of its emissions targets by 2030; and:
 - a) establish a province-wide energy benchmarking for commercial and institutional buildings
 - b) establish a provincial time-of-sale energy labelling program for residential and commercial buildings
 - c) develop and implement leading low carbon fuel standards
 - d) 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
 - e) 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
 - f) align grant program specifications (housing, infrastructure) with building-related policies and other building and infrastructure best practices
 - g) 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
 - h) provide a framework for stratas to support electric vehicle charging in buildings
3. Provide robust and consistent data to support regional, municipal and neighbourhood GHG emissions and energy planning efforts. As such, require:
 - a) utilities to provide neighbourhood scale/building type disaggregated data
 - b) Insurance Corporation of British Columbia to provide all vehicle km/make/model/fuel economy information by municipality
 - c) development of fulsome and frequent community energy and emissions inventories

It is proposed that CRD staff engage with their appropriate provincial and federal ministry counterparts to advance the following programs and policies, as articulated in Part 2, #1-10 below:

PART 2

1. 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.
2. 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:
 - a) climate impact risk and vulnerability assessments
 - b) flood and other hazard mapping and modelling
 - c) adaptation strategies and tools
 - d) risk mitigation/preparedness implementation programs
3. Work with regional and local governments to develop the second phase of the CleanBC plan to achieve the remaining 25% of provincial emissions, specifically on the topics related to:
 - a) reducing and making better use of waste
 - b) improving community planning, active transportation and transit
 - c) meeting our demand for clean electricity
 - d) maintaining a resilient agricultural sector
4. Actively engage local government in a comprehensive review and update of Part 13 of the Local Government Act and related regulations to modernize legislation pertaining to Regional Growth Strategies.
5. 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.
6. Allow for 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).
7. Allow for the local government regulation of building performance standards that are associated with GHG emission reductions.
8. 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.

9. Partner with and support local and regional governments on climate action efforts related to:
 - a) green job creation
 - b) low carbon economic development opportunities
 - c) low carbon and climate adapted infrastructure renewal
 - d) environmental stewardship activities
 - e) energy efficiency programs that support housing affordability
 - f) emergency management and disaster mitigation programs

10. In alignment with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Big City Mayors' Caucus meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in January 2019:
 - a) enhance the relationship between the federal government and municipalities
 - b) provide a permanent funding mechanism to support public transit
 - c) continue and provide a significant increase to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund

It is proposed that CRD staff engage with their appropriate provincial and federal ministry counterparts to understand and advance long-term opportunities requiring legislative change, as articulated in Part 3, #1-3 below:

PART 3

1. 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.

2. Work with regional and local governments to implement the forthcoming second phase of the CleanBC plan to achieve the remaining 25% of provincial emissions, specifically on the topics related to:
 - a) reducing and making better use of waste
 - b) improving community planning, active transportation and transit
 - c) meeting our demand for clean electricity
 - d) maintaining a resilient agricultural sector

3. Amend the Local Government Act to allow regional governments to allocate funds from sources that relate generally to the region-wide tax base, revenue-generating services, and services that generate GHG emissions through their operation towards programs that reduce GHG emissions. This on the basis that GHG reductions 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.