

CLIMATE CRISIS RESPONSE - UPDATE

June 2023

This briefing provides background and current work arising from the January 31, 2023 strategic planning session concerning the climate crisis response.

Board resolution – January 31, 2023

THAT the Comox Valley Regional District Board, in alignment with Appendix E in the staff report dated January 27, 2023:

- a) Support continued efforts to inventory community greenhouse gas emissions and communicate publicly about potential options to reduce community emissions, with an aim to complement the Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan, working towards a Climate Action Plan that addresses both mitigation and adaptation measures for the Comox Valley response to the climate crisis;*
- b) Support regular reporting on climate crisis response actions to the Comox Valley Regional District Board and seek direction on policy objectives and subsequent activities.*

Greenhouse Gas inventories and Climate Action Plan Development

- The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) has measured and reported corporate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions since 2012 and is continually working towards reducing corporate emissions through the Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP). The 2022 corporate inventory will be presented to the Board this summer.
- In January 2023 staff presented the updated CEEP to the Board with emissions associated with the Comox Strathcona Waste Management Service removed. Comox Strathcona Waste Management Service will develop their own emissions inventory and reduction plan later this year.
- The 2023-2027 financial plan included necessary funding to initiate the preliminary actions identified in the CEEP and to recruit for a staff position to coordinate CVRD's corporate climate response (recruitment underway).
- In April 2023 staff presented the Comox Valley Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for the entire CVRD including member municipalities for the 2018 and 2021 reporting years. The inventory provides a comprehensive understanding of community emission sources and sectors to inform climate action work including the development of a regional climate action strategy under the Regional Growth Strategy service (underway).
- The regional climate action strategy will build on current climate action efforts (corporate and regional) with the objective of establishing GHG reduction and adaptation strategies.
- Key next steps in the development of a climate action strategy include:
 - Climate action best practices scan
 - GHG emission reductions pathways and options analysis
 - Stakeholder engagement plan preparation

The Comox Valley Regional District respectfully acknowledges the land on which it operates is on the unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.

Climate Crisis Reporting

- The CVRD has conducted GHG inventories to measure and quantify the emissions from corporate and community sources. GHG inventories are crucial for developing effective emission mitigation and adaptation efforts. Continuous reporting on GHG emissions provides valuable insights, drives climate change and sustainable decision-making.
- Reporting corporate and community emissions also satisfies the Local Government Climate Action Program (Program) which provides funding to support climate action initiatives. The CVRD has received the electoral areas' Program funding and the member municipalities receive their own.
- Monitoring and reporting corporate and community GHG emissions will be provided through periodic reports to the Board and made available to the public using the Regional Growth Strategy Performance Monitoring Dashboard.
- The corporate and community emission inventories and climate action initiatives will also be reported through the upcoming Program reporting before July 31, 2023 and will be made publicly available on September 30, 2023.

Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan Actions

- Water and Sewer services:
 - Complete specific energy and emissions audits for each water and sewer service to identify opportunities for reducing consumption, and projects to offset onsite energy consumption (such as a solar panel farm on the water treatment plant clearwell, and heat recovery at the wastewater treatment plant).
 - Install electronic vehicle charging stations at the water and wastewater treatment plants in anticipation of the electrification of fleet vehicles
- Royston Garbage Collection:
 - Investigation of alternate fuel for contractor collection
 - Installed two electronic vehicle charging stations at Comox Valley Waste Management Centre
- Comox Strathcona Waste Management services (shifted to CSWM Board):
 - Continue to negotiate with Fortis for landfill gas gas from Comox Valley Waste Management Centre
 - Working with WAGA Energy Canada for landfill gas from Campbell River Waste Management Centre (declining volumes over time)
 - Issued the Emissions Reduction Strategy Request for Proposal
 - Received federal grant for drone survey work targeted at identifying landfill gas system collection efficiency and effectiveness

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