

BLUE CARBON CREDITS

The Comox Valley Regional District board, on occasion, elects to support province-wide concerns and issues in the form of a board resolution. These resolutions are normally forwarded first to the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) for consideration but may also be forwarded directly to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). Based on the nature of the concern, UBCM will either endorse or not endorse the recommendation and if endorsed, will present the concern to the provincial or federal government on behalf of all BC municipalities and regional district.

Date of Board meeting: January 31, 2012

Board Resolution: WHEREAS local governments across British Columbia may prefer to have the opportunity to invest in local projects in order to reach their carbon neutral commitments under the BC Climate Action Charter;
AND WHEREAS blue carbon offsets, which are estuary restoration projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve estuary environments, may offer an excellent opportunity for local carbon neutral investments throughout the province;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial climate action secretariat to enable local governments to invest in blue carbon projects in their communities in order to meet their carbon neutral commitments under the BC Climate Action Charter.

This resolution was referred to AVICC on, February 20, 2012

A response was received on October 2, 2012

Response from AVICC: On motion was ENDORSED at the 2012 annual convention.

Resolution referred to UBCM The Resolution Committee advises that the membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that local governments be allowed to invest in blue carbon projects in their communities to meet their carbon neutral commitments. However, the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for a flexible framework to meet the local government carbon neutral commitments under the BC Climate Action Charter, including 2009-B110, 2010-B31, 2010-B32, 2011-A5, and 2011-B133. The Committee is also aware that UBCM has been working closely with the Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development and the Climate Action Secretariat through the Green Communities Committee to create a carbon neutral framework that would enable local governments to reduce their corporate carbon liability and meet their commitment to become carbon neutral. The framework includes three options, one of which is to invest in Alternate Community GHG Reduction Projects. This option

recognizes that local governments may have projects that provide for measurable emission reductions which they wish to develop and use to counterbalance their remaining corporate emissions. So long as the estuary restoration project meets project eligibility requirements (e.g., being outside the local government corporate emissions boundary; emission reductions are credibly measured) a local government may use the project to counterbalance corporate emissions.

Conference decision: _____