

Climate Action Program 2015 Annual Report

CRD | Capital Regional District



Through the Climate Action and Adaptation Service Establishment Bylaw No. 3510, the **Capital Regional District Climate Action Program (CAP)** serves the region by acting as a resource, hub and facilitator on climate change issues. The program directly supports stakeholders through five important roles:

- Assisting local governments in developing and implementing emissions reductions and climate adaptation policies, plans and programs under their community and corporate portfolios.
- Providing scientific information, data and indicators related to local and regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and projected climate impacts for the capital region.
- Increasing public awareness of climate change issues and catalyzing action through partnerships with public and private sectors, non-governmental and community organizations.
- Liaising with senior levels of government on climate change related programs, policies and legislation that impact the capital region.
- Supporting the CRD in fulfilling its own corporate climate objectives, including the climate-related CRD Board strategic priorities.

The contents of this report provide an overview of the CRD Climate Action Program's achievements from 2015.

Further information on the CRD's corporate climate activities can be found in the 2015 Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) Report available at www.crd.bc.ca



Why Take Action?

Climate change is a major issue facing our planet today. Whether it is impacts to our environmental, economic and social systems or human health, our communities will continue to be challenged with finding ways to reduce energy and emissions, while preparing for the climate of tomorrow. Although the challenges are real, they are not insurmountable. By taking action on climate change in the capital region, we can protect valuable services like clean air and water, create jobs and maximize local economic development, reduce costs for homeowners and businesses, enhance quality of life, reduce our risks and create a more resilient future.

CRD Climate Commitments & Regulations

The CRD is required to take action to reduce corporate and community GHG emissions, and prepare for the impacts of climate change under the following provincial regulation and commitments:

Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act (Bill 27) requires regional districts and local governments to include targets, policies and actions for the reduction of GHG emissions in Regional Growth Strategies and Official Community Plans. The Act also provides powers to local governments to support mitigation and adaptation through development permit areas, development cost charges and parking and building code requirements.

In 2008, all local governments in the region, including the CRD, became signatories of the **BC Climate Action Charter**.

This includes a commitment to:

- become carbon neutral in corporate operations starting in 2012
- measure and report on our community's GHG emissions profile
- work to create compact, complete, more energy efficient rural and urban communities

Since 2009, the CRD has participated in the provincial **Carbon Tax Rebate Incentive Program (CARIP)**.

By reporting annually on corporate energy use, as well as corporate and community climate actions, the CRD receives a rebate for the carbon tax it pays.

In 2008, the CRD Environmental Services Committee adopted the target to reduce 33% of GHG emissions by 2020, from a base year of 2007.

The CRD has been measuring and reporting on corporate GHG emissions since 2009 and has been carbon neutral since 2012.

The CRD provides data for the provincial development of the Community Energy and Emissions Inventories.

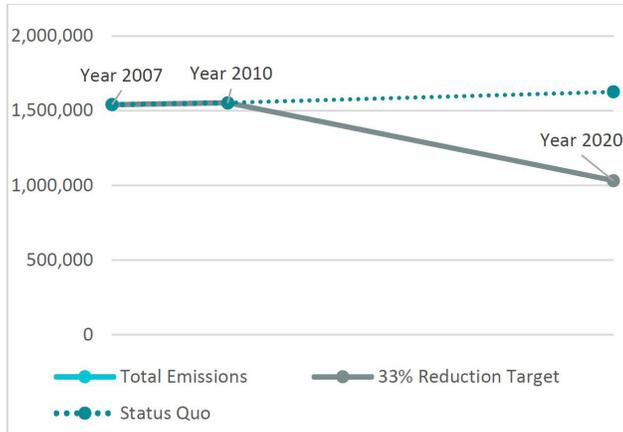
CRD policies and actions supporting this commitment are outlined in the draft Regional Growth Strategy and related strategies (under development).

In 2015, the CRD's CARIP reserve was used to fund a 1-year staff pilot position within the Climate Action Program to support corporate climate action activities. See page 5 for more information.

Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Targets

The most recent provincial Community & Emissions Inventory data shows the capital region emitted 1,552,234 tonnes of CO₂e in 2010.

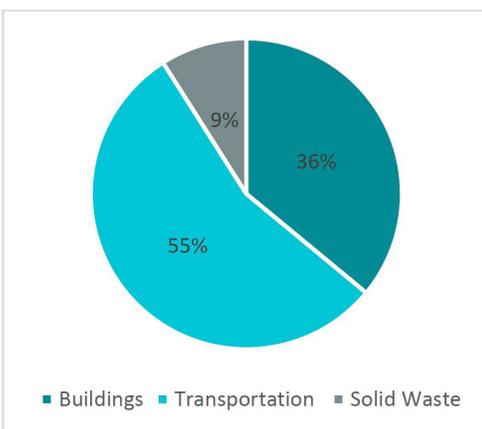
Community GHG Emission Targets



Source: Community Energy & Emissions Inventory (CEEI, 2014), Province of BC

A 33% reduction in emissions would require a decrease of over 500,000 tonnes of CO₂e. It is recognized that this is an ambitious target which will require significant effort to achieve.

2010 GHG Emissions by Source



Source: Community Energy & Emissions Inventory (CEEI, 2014), Province of BC

Transportation is largely responsible for region-wide emissions, followed by buildings and solid waste. Emissions data is useful in informing regional policies, programming and actions.

CRD Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Targets

The CRD set a target to reduce corporate GHG emissions by 33% by 2020.

Under the BC Climate Action Charter, the CRD is committed to measuring, reducing, offsetting or balancing, and reporting on annual emissions from corporate operations.



In 2015, CAP conducted GHG baseline analysis, energy analysis and assessment to develop proposed climate policy and governance framework, and corporate strategy.

CO₂e generated by the CRD's corporate operations and services in 2015 will be reported by June 1, 2016, as required by the Province.

Climate Action Adaptation

The climate is changing. Scientists project that the capital region will continue to experience:

- hotter, drier summers
- warmer, wetter winters
- more intense and frequent rain and wind storms
- sea level rise

Without action, these changes threaten a variety of regional and local government services, as well as overall community health and wellbeing. The CRD will continue to consider the implications of a changing climate, share our learnings and continue to prepare.



Climate Action Program Overview

The CRD Climate Action Program provides direct support to local governments, the CRD and the general public. The program operated on an annual budget of \$279,000 which included 1.5 full time employees. The program's budget is provided through an annual requisition from all of the municipalities and electoral areas. The program also relies on external grants and partnerships to undertake community climate programming.

Climate Action Program 2015 Accomplishments

Support for Local Governments

Each community within the region has unique climate action priorities. To respond to the diverse and ongoing needs of local governments, the CRD coordinates the Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group and the Climate Action Inter-Municipal Steering Committee. Staff and elected officials participate in these groups to share information, collaborate, review current program deliverables and provide input on the direction of future work.

In addition to facilitating these groups, the CAP provided customized support to local governments, including:

- assisting with the development of community plans, programs, information reports and education initiatives.
- providing background information to new staff working on climate-related issues.
- attending public events and open houses.
- providing consultation coordination on proposed provincial flood hazard policy changes and the provincial Climate Leadership Plan.
- providing assistance on GHG inventory and balancing projects.
- hosting or sponsoring capacity-building workshops on topics such as:
 - sea level rise and wave effects
 - watersheds and liveable cities
 - the Green Shores program
- completing the CRD Sea Level Rise Planning Approaches Project which offered local governments training workshops to discuss sea level rise adaptation approaches.

To facilitate further information sharing, the CAP produces a monthly e-newsletter that includes information, events, resources and funding opportunities for local government. Members of the Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group, the Climate Action Inter-Municipal Steering Committee and other interested local government stakeholders are included on the mailing list.

Corporate Support

While implementation of climate action remains the responsibility of each CRD department, the CAP provides support to departments on an as-needed basis. This includes, but is not limited to:

- coordinating a CRD response to provincial policy changes related to:
 - the proposed changes to the BC Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines.
 - the recommendations for the new BC Climate Leadership Plan.
- providing messaging for public outreach campaigns.
- disseminating climate mitigation and adaptation information to CRD departments.
- linking information from higher levels of government to operational needs and opportunities.
- supporting the development of relevant CRD-led planning documents (such as the Regional Growth Strategy, strategic plans, etc.).
- providing information to the CRD Roundtable on the Environment committee, as requested.
- working with CRD Finance staff, supporting annual GHG inventory and provincial CARIP reporting activities.

The CRD used its 2015 accumulated carbon tax rebate for an additional 1-year staff pilot position in support of corporate climate policy development and facilitation of corporate GHG reduction and energy saving opportunities. Throughout 2015, the CRD corporate climate analyst pilot position:

- completed a GHG emissions baseline analysis on CRD buildings, vehicles and equipment, calculating progress towards corporate emissions reductions targets.
- conducted a detailed review of the CRD fleet energy efficiency through the Energy Environment Excellence (E3) Fleet Program.
- identified priority CRD facilities for future retrofit and emissions reductions activities.
- supported CRD staff to work with utility providers (BC Hydro and Fortis BC) and external grant programs, such as the Community Energy Leadership Program, to generate GHG emissions reductions, energy savings and financial savings within operation of CRD-owned facilities and infrastructure.
- supported business case and feasibility analysis for corporate lighting and boiler retrofit projects.
- began developing a CRD corporate climate policy and governance framework.



Climate Action Program Initiatives Highlights

The CAP has a diverse portfolio that is shaped by the priorities and interests of the CRD Board and our partner local governments. CAP staff directly engaged more than 3,700 citizens and supported local organizations and businesses in climate change actions and awareness.

Below is a summary of the 2015 major projects and initiatives led by the CAP:

- Working with local governments, completed a **Sea Level Rise Planning Project**. During the first phase, staff prepared a Coastal Sea Level Rise Risk Assessment to better understand regional coastal vulnerabilities to sea level rise in 24 focus areas across the region. The project also included an economic risk assessment and analysis of economic impacts associated with service disruptions. The second phase involved workshops with local governments to further understand the sea level rise implications in their community and discuss sea level rise adaptation approaches. This phase resulted in the development of a toolkit which **prioritized planning, regulatory and site-specified adaptation** specific to the capital region and its local governments. The project was largely possible due to funding from Natural Resources Canada and Tides Canada, as well as assistance from municipal and electoral area staff.
- The **Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program** is a provincial incentive program that encourages homeowners to replace oil tanks with electric heat pumps, one of the most impactful ways to reduce home heating GHG emissions. The CAP and Integrated Watershed Management Program partnered to offer 125 top-up incentives (\$150 each) for additional home energy assessments to CRD residents participating in the provincial program. Top-up incentives will be available in 2016 on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Building on 4 years of success, the **Resilient Region Breakfast**—a quarterly breakfast meet-up is designed to bring together regional stakeholders working on climate and sustainability issues in the region. With **80 to 100 community members** (from general public, local government, business, public sector and non-profit organizations) attending each meeting and approximately **550 online members**, this series has earned a reputation for partnership development, project incubation and community building. In 2015, the series was made possible, in part, due to a funding partnership with BC Hydro.
- The CAP completed the second round of the **Tap by Tap: Multi Unit Residential Program**. The initiative provided high-efficiency faucet aerators and showerheads to apartment building and property managers in the region, resulting in **annual regional savings of 33,000,000 L of water, 5,500 GJ of energy, 230 tonnes of CO₂e and \$150,000 in financial savings**. This program was completed in partnership with the CRD Water Conservation Program, City Green Solutions and FortisBC.



- Since 2012, the CAP has partnered with the region's libraries to offer the **Climate Action To-Go Kit Program**. Each kit includes books, videos, energy efficiency tools, LED light bulbs and select print materials geared for homes. The program expanded in 2014 and 2015 for school and non-profit borrowing. Currently **24 kits are in circulation**. This initiative has been made possible, in part, due to a funding partnership with BC Hydro.
- The **Climate Change Showdown Program**, delivered through the BC Sustainable Energy Association, helps young people in grades 4–6 learn about climate change and how to take action to reduce GHG emissions in the classroom and at home. The CRD topped up local government school sponsorship, enabling **10 more schools** to participate, resulting in an estimated **385 tonnes of annual GHG emissions savings** total, regionally.
- **Solar CRD** offered solar hot water system financial incentives and general education on solar hot water technology for residents and businesses. Building off the Solar Colwood initiative, the CRD worked with the City of Colwood and federal funders to expand the program throughout the capital region.
- The **Green Shores Training Project**, led by the Stewardship Centre for BC, builds off the sea level rise work, offering training for shoreline stakeholders, including local government staff, elected officials, home owners and professionals. The CRD provided input, promotional support and participated on an advisory committee to develop the curriculum.
- The **Ready, Set, Solve Program** invites teams of post-secondary students to solve real climate and sustainability challenges submitted by local municipalities, non-profits and institutions. The CRD confirmed financial support from BC Hydro, Camosun College, University of Victoria and in-kind support from the CRD Environmental Partnerships division. Staff collected challenges and began planning for student recruitment in early 2016.
- Through funding or in-kind support, the CAP also supported community programming, including **YesBC's Youth Climate Summit & Off the Grid Festival** for over 200 regional high school students and **Keyline Design Workshops** for regional farmers to learn about water management techniques (in partnership with the CRD Integrated Watershed Management Program).





Looking Ahead to 2016

In 2016, the CAP will continue to support the CRD and local governments in their climate action goals, while undertaking projects that reduce corporate and community emissions, and better prepare our region for climate changes. Planning includes a number of projects, such as:

- **CRD Community Climate Action Strategy.** This Strategy is a requirement of the CRD's Regional Growth Strategy development process. The CAP will lead the process to develop a strategy that highlights a number of climate actions that CRD services can, within their mandates, do to support community climate action efforts.
- **Ready, Set, Solve: Student Climate Challenge.** The third round of this initiative will begin with student recruitment in early 2016.
- **Downscaled Climate Projections Study.** Working with CRD Integrated Water Services and local governments, the CAP intends to lead a project to further refine climate projection data for the capital region. The study will help the region's planners, engineers and land-use managers to better understand precipitation and temperature-related predictions for climate adaptation planning.

- **Food Service Establishment Energy & Water Saving Program.** With support from FortisBC and the CRD Water Conservation Program, participants will receive and install high-efficient faucet spray valves and faucet aerators in their commercial kitchens.
- **Planet Protector Academy.** Working with non-profit DreamRider Productions, the CAP will offer educational programming (free-of-charge) that encourages students in grades 3-6 to take action to reduce energy use and emissions at home.
- **Get Moving Transportation Expo.** Working with numerous partners, this multi-day transportation expo will provide residents with information and experiences to encourage low-carbon travelling.

In addition, the CAP also intends to continue the Resilient Region Breakfast Series, Climate Action To-Go Kits in regional libraries and the Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program.

Furthermore, funding for a permanent Corporate Climate Policy Analyst position, to support the CRD in meeting the corporate GHG emissions reductions targets and adapt to climate change, will be proposed to the CRD Board and local municipalities. This position would be housed within the CRD Risk, Insurance & Facilities Management division.