



Making a difference...together

# Climate Action Program

2018 Progress Report



## Governance & Overview

### CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAM

Through the Climate Action and Adaptation Service Establishment Bylaw No. 3510, the Capital Regional District (CRD) Climate Action Program (CAP) serves the region by acting as a resource, hub and facilitator on both climate mitigation and adaptation 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 climate objectives, including some of the climate-related Board priorities and advocacy needs.

### **The contents of this report provide an overview of the CRD Climate Action Program's 2018 achievements.**

For information about CRD corporate and community climate actions undertaken by other CRD departments, divisions and services, please see the 2018 CRD Climate Action Annual Report at [www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca).

The CAP provides direct support to local governments, the CRD and residents.

In 2018, the program operated on an annual budget of approximately \$382,000 which included two full-time employees.\* The program's core 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 action programming. See 2018 Climate Action Program Accomplishments for more information.

*\*Note: in early 2019, the Board approved that CAP pursue a BC Hydro Community Energy Manager grant to support an additional fulltime staff two-year term position to support regional climate mitigation programming.*

### **Supporting Local Governments**

Each community within the region has unique climate action priorities. To respond to the diverse and ongoing needs of local governments, the CAP coordinates the CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group (IMWG) which formally meets quarterly, and the CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force (Task Force) which meets bi-annually.

Staff and elected officials participate in these groups to share information, collaborate on projects, review current program deliverables, provide input on the direction of future work, and report back learnings to their organizations/Councils.

In addition to facilitating these groups, the CAP provides 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.

- Aligning with services levels of government priorities
- Attending public events and open houses.
- Quantifying and distributing balancing credits associated with CRD-managed kitchen scraps diversion.
- Hosting capacity-building workshops for staff and elected officials. In 2018, workshop topics included electric vehicles and electric bikes charging infrastructure planning and climate adaptation.
- Developing and sharing communication and promotional tools for their own use (i.e., template posters, social media content, etc.).

### *Climate Newsletter*

To facilitate further information sharing, the CAP produced a monthly e-newsletter for local governments that highlighted current events, resources, project updates, and training and funding opportunities related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Members of the CRD Climate Action IMWG, Task Force and other interested local government stakeholders are included on the mailing list.

In 2018, a quarterly Resilient Region Exchange e-newsletter was also prepared and distributed to interested community members to share climate-related news, local events, programs and funding opportunities.

### *Provincial Peer Networks*

To facilitate information exchange to the CRD and local governments on climate and energy related provincial policies, programs and opportunities, CAP staff participate in the following peer networks:

- BC Local Government EV Peer Network & Emotive Network
- BC Hydro Community Energy Managers Network
- BC Climate Risk Network
- Local Government BC Energy Step Code Peer Network

### *Supporting CRD Services*

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:

- Leading annual reporting of the CRD's Regional Climate Action Strategy.
- Providing messaging and climate data for public outreach campaigns.
- Disseminating climate mitigation and adaptation information to CRD departments.
- Supporting the development of relevant CRD-led planning documents, as needed.
- Supporting the CRD Corporate Climate Analyst on

annual Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) reporting.

- Managing CRD support and participation in two regional events: International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives' (ICLEI) Adapting Together Workshop and Synergy Sustainability Institute's 2018 EcoStar Awards.
- Supporting CRD Board advocacy efforts in climate-related issues.



## Community 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.

Highlights from 2018 include:

- Completed the **Capital Region Electric Vehicle (EV) + Electric Bike (E-Bike) Infrastructure Planning Project** to better understand and assess opportunities to advance EV and E-Bike charging infrastructure in public and private locations throughout the region. Working with and on behalf of capital region local governments, the project included public and developers' surveys, four distinct capacity building events (for development industry with UDI, for local government staff, for the public), local research and analysis and two reports: the Capital Region Local Government Electric Vehicle (EV) + Electric Bike (E-Bike) Infrastructure Planning Guide (November 2018) and the Electric Vehicle and E-Bike Infrastructure Backgrounder (September 2018). CAP received \$31,350 in external grant funding from BC Hydro Sustainable Communities in support of this project.
- Partnered in the ICLEI **Adapting Together Project** to complete risk assessments and adaptation plans for

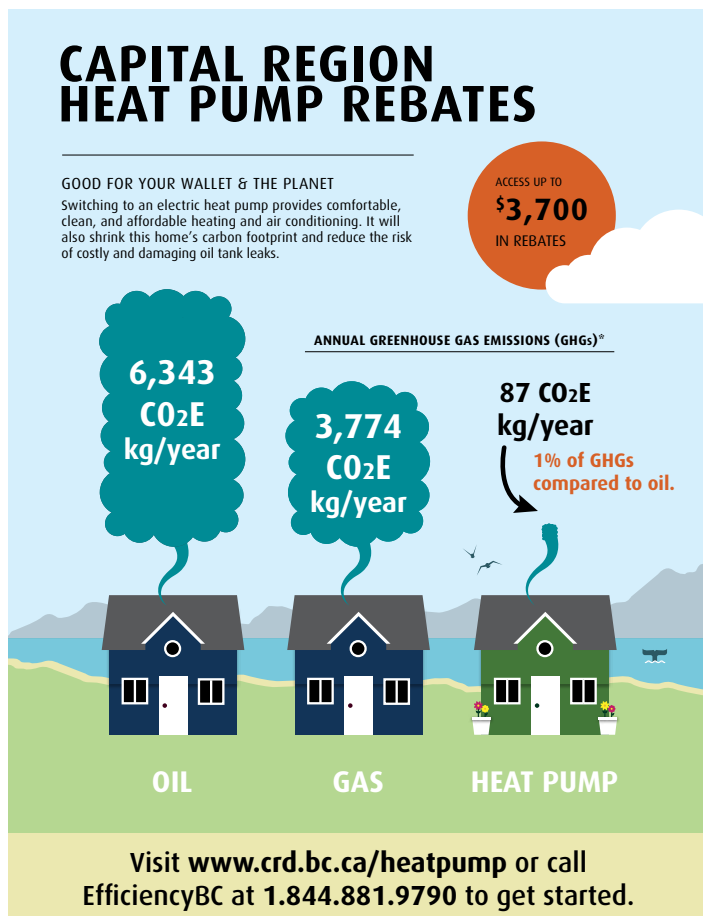
eight island communities, including Saanich, Esquimalt, Colwood, develop a community of practice and support capacity-building opportunities. Started in mid-2018, this is a two-year project funded by a \$150,000 grant from the Real Estate Foundation of BC.

- Completed coordination of the CRD offer of top-up incentives (\$150 each) to capital region residents participating in the provincial **Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program**, as well as incentives on behalf of the District of Saanich, the City of Victoria and the Township of Esquimalt. Since 2015, of the 472 successful applications across British Columbia, 304 heat pumps were installed in the capital region, totalling 1,270 tonnes of annual GHG emissions savings.
- Building off a new provincial retrofit incentive program, EfficiencyBC, through partnership with the CRD Harbours and Watershed Program, launched the **Capital Region Heat Pump Top-Up Incentive Program** (\$350 each) for residents who switch from a fossil fuel powered heating system to an electric heat pump. District of Saanich and City of Victoria are also offering top-ups. Led the development of initial regionally-specific promotional materials and shared with local governments for their use. EfficiencyBC incentives are administered by BCHydro, FortisBC and BC Housing.

- Working with regional recreation centres, coordinated the distribution of BC Hydro and FortisBC **Energy Conservation Assistance Program** and **Energy Saving Kits** information and registration packages for Leisure Involvement For Everyone program members to access free home energy assessments, tools and direct install of energy/water saving fixtures.
- Working with CRD Local Government Emergency Programs Advisory Committee and CRD Climate Action IMWG members, led a regional National Disaster and Mitigation Program grant application to support regional **sea level rise and tsunami** modelling and mapping. Grant awards expected in spring 2019.
- Working with City Green Solutions, the Home Performance Stakeholder Council and multiple local governments on Vancouver Island, supported a \$400,000 FCM Transition 2050 Partner Program Grant in support of the **Residential Retrofit Acceleration Project**. The grant award was successful, and a two-year project commenced in early 2019 to support industry and local government capacity building, the development of community energy retrofit strategies and neighbourhood pilot projects.

## EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

- Working with the non-profit BC Sustainable Energy Association, offered **Cool It! Climate Leadership Training** workshops for students in grades 4-7. During the 4-week program challenge, students committed to several energy conserving and emissions saving actions at home, totalling 10,581 actions and resulting in a projected savings of 485 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, if they continue their actions for one year. The CAP sponsored 20 workshops, and coordinated 10 more on behalf of the District of Saanich.
- Expanded and relaunched publicly available **Climate Action To-Go Kits** in Greater Victoria Public Libraries, Vancouver Island Public Libraries, Salt Spring Island Library and Camosun College Library. Greater Victoria Public Libraries alone distributed the kits 100 times in 2018.
- In collaboration with Regional Planning, CRD Traffic Safety Commission, and Island Health, led the **CRD Walk and Wheel to School Week** in October 2018. The active travel awareness and celebration initiative had 33 schools across the capital region register, reached more than 10,000 students and built momentum and enthusiasm with more than 8,000 active trips recorded.
- Continued to support industry and local government education on the new voluntary regulation, the **BC Energy Step Code**.



- Coordinated and hosted the quarterly **Resilient Region Exchange breakfast series** designed to bring together stakeholders working on climate and sustainability issues in the region. Membership increased to over 690 (general public, local government, business, public sector, institutional and non-profit organizations) with 40-60 people attending each meeting. This year, event themes and co-hosts were the BC Climate Action Secretariat (Collaborative Climate Action), Victoria EV Club (EV Transformation), Central Saanich (Local Food), District of Saanich and Vancity (Local Climate Leaders).
- Created and shared **communication tools** with local governments illustrating regional climate projections and possible adaptation actions.

## Looking Ahead to 2019

In 2019, the CAP will continue to support the CRD and local governments in their climate action goals, while undertaking projects that reduce community and corporate emissions, and better prepare our region for climate changes. Planning includes a number of projects, such as:

- Support action related to CRD's climate emergency declaration.
- Continue to participate in the ICLEI **Adapting Together Project**.
- Promote the Capital Region **Heat Pump Top-Up Incentive Program** municipal top-up incentives, and the EfficiencyBC program.
- Work with partners (City Green Solutions, Home Performance Stakeholder Council and south Vancouver Island local governments) to develop and implement the **Residential Retrofit Acceleration Project** with support from a Transition 2050 Partner Grant.
- Coordinate the review and delivery of **Cool It! Climate Leadership Training workshops** in regional elementary schools.
- If the grant application is successful, manage a regional **sea level rise modeling** and mapping project.
- Continue to support the **Climate Action To-Go Kits** throughout the regional library system
- Administer **Walk and Wheel to School Week** in October 2019.
- Continue to support industry and local government education on the **BC Energy Step Code** and **EV and E-Bike strategies**.

In addition, the CAP will continue to support the advancement of the CRD strategic priorities related climate action.



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