



News Release

Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant Receives Gas Tax Funding

(December 16, 2008) Victoria, British Columbia – An innovative energy recovery system will be constructed at the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant thanks to \$2.98 million in funding from the federal Gas Tax Fund. This new energy recovery system will capture thermal energy from effluent to provide hot water and space heating in the treatment plant and adjacent facilities, including the Panorama Recreation Centre, the Centre for Plant Health, and an elementary school.

“The Government of Canada is taking action to speed up infrastructure projects, to build a stronger economy and a healthier environment,” said Minister Gary Lunn, the Member of Parliament for Saanich-Gulf Islands. “This energy efficient project will support a healthier community to provide cleaner water, cleaner air and a high quality of life for residents.”

The new project will test an innovative heat recovery system design. Existing guidelines state that the maximum distance from the heat recovery source to the heat users is 500 metres. This project will push that distance to 600 metres. The project will size the transmission piping to enable maximum energy capture from the effluent, which will allow for future expansion at the facilities, or for the addition of new energy users. The project will also install a micro-turbine at the wastewater treatment plant outfall to generate electricity.

“The proposed thermal energy recovery system is truly an innovative way of turning wastewater effluent into a productive energy source for the Capital Regional District,” said Ida Chong, British Columbia Minister of Trade, Technology and Economic Development. “It’s exciting to see how the Gas Tax Fund can help communities bring these types of leading-edge projects to fruition.”

Under the Canada-BC-UBCM Agreement on the Transfer of federal Gas Tax revenues, the Gas Tax Fund delivers infrastructure funding to local governments and other eligible recipients primarily for capital projects that lead to cleaner air, cleaner water or reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Funding is also available for planning projects that contribute to the sustainability of communities and regions.

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities administers the Gas Tax Fund in British Columbia in collaboration with Canada and British Columbia.

“The federal Gas Tax Fund is playing a vital role in supporting innovative technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions produced by local government operations,” said Union

of British Columbia Municipalities Executive Member Chris Causton. “The Capital Regional District is to be applauded for developing this project to utilize waste heat from its treatment plant.”

It is expected that construction will begin on the project in the spring of 2009.

“The Capital Regional District is proud to be the recipient of a federal Gas Tax funds,” said Capital Regional District Chair Geoff Young. “The Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Facility, operated by the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission, already employs secondary treatment technologies. Saanich is an ideal location to pioneer innovative treatment, including resource recovery. The plant currently serves a variety of rural residential, commercial and urban customers and thus will allow the Capital Regional District to pilot a variety of Integrated Resource Management strategies. Through construction and operation of this energy recovery system the Capital Regional District will take part in an exceptional learning opportunity.”

Please visit www.infrastructure.gc.ca and www.buildingcanada.gc.ca, or www.civicnet.bc.ca for background information on the Canada – BC – UBCM Gas Tax Agreement.

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