

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CLIMATE ACTION CHARTER
BETWEEN
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (THE PROVINCE)
AND
THE UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES (UBCM)
AND
SIGNATORY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

(THE PARTIES)

(1) The Parties share the common understanding that:

- (a) Scientific consensus has developed that increasing emissions of human caused greenhouse gases (GHG), including carbon dioxide, methane and other GHG emissions, that are released into the atmosphere are affecting the Earth's climate;
- (b) the evidence of global warming is unequivocal and the effects of climate change are evident across British Columbia;
- (c) reducing GHG emissions will generate environmental and health benefits for individuals, families, and communities;
- (d) climate change and reducing GHG emissions are issues of importance to British Columbians;
- (e) governments urgently need to implement effective measures to reduce GHG emissions and anticipate and prepare for climate change impacts;
- (f) protecting the environment can be done in ways that promote economic prosperity; and
- (g) it is important to take action and to work together to share best practices, to reduce GHG emissions and address the impacts of climate change.

(2) The Parties acknowledge that each has an important role in addressing climate change and that:

- (a) The Province has taken action on climate change, including commitments made in the 2007 Speech from the Throne, the BC Energy Plan, and the Western Climate Initiative on climate change;
- (b) Local Governments have taken action on climate change, including planning livable, sustainable communities, encouraging green developments and transit oriented developments, and implementing innovative infrastructure technologies including landfill gas recapture and production of clean energy; and

- (c) these actions create the foundation for the Parties to be leaders in affecting climate change.

(3) This Charter acknowledges that:

- (a) The interrelationship between each Order of Government's respective jurisdictions and accountabilities with respect to communities, and activities related to and within communities, creates both a need and an opportunity to work collaboratively on climate change initiatives;
- (b) both Orders of Government have recognized a need for action, both see that the circumstances represent a Climate for Change in British Columbia, and both are responding; and
- (c) the actions of each of the Parties towards climate change will be more successful if undertaken jointly with other Parties.

(4) The Parties share the common goals of:

- (a) Fostering co-operative inter-governmental relations;
- (b) aiming to reduce GHG emissions, including both their own and those created by others;
- (c) removing legislative, regulatory, policy, or other barriers to taking action on climate change;
- (d) implementing programs, policies, or legislative actions, within their respective jurisdictions, that facilitate reduced GHG emissions, where appropriate;
- (e) encouraging communities that are complete and compact and socially responsive; and
- (f) encouraging infrastructure and a built environment that supports the economic and social needs of the community while minimizing its environmental impact.

(5) In order to contribute to reducing GHG emissions:

- (a) Signatory Local Governments agree to develop strategies and take actions to achieve the following goals:
 - (i) being carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2012, recognizing that solid waste facilities regulated under *the Environmental Management Act* are not included in operations for the purposes of this Charter.
 - (ii) measuring and reporting on their community's GHG emissions profile; and
 - (iii) creating complete, compact, more energy efficient rural and urban communities (e.g. foster a built environment that supports a reduction in car dependency and

energy use, establish policies and processes that support fast tracking of green development projects, adopt zoning practices that encourage land use patterns that increase density and reduce sprawl.)


(b) The Province and the UBCM will support local governments in pursuing these goals, including developing options and actions for local governments to be carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2012.

(6) The Parties agree that this commitment to working together towards reducing GHG emissions will be implemented through establishing a Joint Provincial-UBCM Green Communities Committee and Green Communities Working Groups that support that Committee, with the following purposes:

- (a) To develop a range of actions that can affect climate change, including initiatives such as: assessment, taxation, zoning or other regulatory reforms or incentives to encourage land use patterns that promote increased density, smaller lot sizes, encourage mixed uses and reduced GHG emissions; development of GHG reduction targets and strategies, alternative transportation opportunities, policies and processes that support fast-tracking of green development projects, community gardens and urban forestry; and integrated transportation and land use planning;
- (b) to build local government capacity to plan and implement climate change initiatives;
- (c) to support local government in taking actions on becoming carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2012, including developing a common approach to determine carbon neutrality for the purposes of this Charter, identifying carbon neutral strategies and actions appropriate for the range of communities in British Columbia and becoming reporting entities under the Climate Registry; and,
- (d) to share information and explore additional opportunities to support climate change activities, through enhanced collaboration amongst the Parties, and through encouraging and promoting climate change initiatives of individuals and businesses within communities.

- (7) Once a common approach to carbon neutrality is developed under section (6)(c), Signatory Local Governments will implement their commitment in 5 (a) (i).
- (8) To recognize and support the GHG emission reduction initiatives and the climate change goals outlined in this Charter, Signatory Local Governments are invited by the other Parties to include a statement of their initiatives and commitments as an appendix to this Charter.
- (9) This Charter is not intended to be legally binding or impose legal obligations on any Party and will have no legal effect.

SIGNED on behalf of the PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA by:


Honourable Ida Chong
Minister of Community, Sport
and Cultural Development


Date: AUG 12 2011


Honourable Terry Lake
Minister of Environment

Date: AUG 15 2011

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SIGNED on behalf of the UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES by:

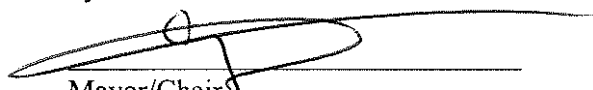

Councillor Brenda Binnie and
President of the Union of British
Columbia Municipalities

Date: September 26, 2007

SIGNED on behalf of the SIGNATORY LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT
(NAME OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

by:


Mayor/Chair

Date OCT. 27, 2008

Appendix
GHG reduction initiatives or commitments of Signatory Local Government

Addendum to
The British Columbia Climate Change Action Charter

For

Township of Esquimalt

is committed to

1. Implementing existing plans

- Official Community Plan – Esquimalt’s current OCP was adopted in March 2007 and contains policies regarding smart growth, creating a healthy community, designing neighbourhoods to be pedestrian and transit friendly, encouraging cycling, maintaining the urban forest, protecting environmentally sensitive areas, promoting recycling and reducing air-borne pollutants.
- Continue to encourage developers to follow Esquimalt’s Green Building Policy adopted in 2007
- Enforce Bylaw No. 2686 ‘A Bylaw to Regulate the Use of Pesticides for Non-Essential Purposes within the Municipality of Esquimalt’ adopted July 2008
- Maintain Esquimalt’s urban forest through public education and enforcement of Esquimalt’s revised Tree Protection Bylaw for private property and by maintaining or adding municipal trees throughout the community.

2. Continue to pursue activities

- Work with the CRD to develop the E & N Trail to provide a regional east-west cycling corridor
- Pursue the development of a Lyall Street cycling route
- Implement new cycling lanes, both east-bound and west-bound, on Craigflower Road
- Identify and improve pedestrian routes and access throughout the community
- Undertake a community energy strategy
- Complete a sewer system upgrade
- Develop a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy
- Work towards Carbon Neutral and/or Energy Efficient Municipal Operations
- Investigate and adopt Transportation Demand Management Strategies
- Encourage development proposals that include opportunities to live, work and play within walking distance
- Support regional public transportation systems including commuter rail

3. Preparing new plans, bylaws, policies, etc.

- The OCP will be amended to plan for being carbon neutral in respect of municipal operations by 2012

SCHEDULE A

- Incorporate LEED building standards and the re-use of storm water in plans for the Esquimalt Village
- Adopt Secondary Suite regulations currently in draft
- Review of the Parking Bylaw to encourage developers to provide alternatives to traditional parking arrangements
- Prepare a Smart Growth Development Checklist including the principles of Smart Growth and Green Building Programs [Built Green and LEED standards]
- Consider the feasibility of micro-generation projects (hydro, wind power, etc)
- Finalize Esquimalt's Sustainable Purchasing Policy

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