March 15, 2016

BC MAYORS CLIMATE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Climate Leadership Consultation
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Via email: climateleadershipplan@gov.bc.ca

RE: BCMCLC Submission - Phase 2 Climate Leadership Plan Consultation

Local governments in BC influence 56% of the energy use and over half of the greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in Canada. Knowing this, in September 2010 a number of mayors from large and small communities across British Columbia came together to form the BC Mayors Climate Leadership Council to lead, mentor, and engage with other locally elected officials to move climate action forward. The members of the BCMCLC has a proven track record in reducing GHGs while creating more sustainable communities, and recognizes that the transition to a low-carbon society and economy is an issue that transcends regional differences, partisan politics, and ideologies.

District of North Vancouver Mayor Richard Walton is Chair of the Council. Members include:

Mayor Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers
Mayor Lawrence Chernoff, City of Castlegar
Mayor Jon Lefebure, Municipality of North Cowichan
Mayor Darrell Mussatto, City of North Vancouver
Councillor Andrea Reimer, City of Vancouver
Councillor Cheryl Shuman, City of Dawson Creek
Mayor Luke Strimbold, Village of Burns Lake
Mayor Richard Walton, District of North Vancouver

As members of the Council, we feel strongly that the following actions are critical.

What We Value

1. Establish climate action as a top objective by clearly integrating emissions reductions and climate adaptation priorities into all Provincial decision-making, programs, and plans (e.g. BC on the Move 10 Year Transportation Plan, BC Building Act, etc.).
2. Reinstate predictable annual increments to the carbon tax of between $6-15 per tonne.
3. Use a portion of carbon tax revenue along with road pricing revenue to fund significant and sustained public transit and active transportation infrastructure.
4. Provide continued support for accurate, accessible, and timely community energy and emissions inventories so that local communities can measure progress towards legislated emissions targets.

The Way We Live

It is important to have Smart Energy Communities[1] that are compact and efficient, and expanded policies that focus not only on individual buildings but also on how buildings are integrated with community planning and travel. We suggest the following with respect to individual buildings:

1. Implement mandatory energy labelling on Part 9 buildings at point of construction, renovation and sale, and benchmarking of larger Part 3 buildings.
2. Establish incentives, financing, and retrofit codes to remove existing barriers to improving energy efficiency in existing buildings. Require utilities to provide multi-year energy conservation programs (ECP) supplemented through Provincial government grant programs.
3. Set a clear target for the end performance of new buildings (e.g. for new buildings to be 'net-zero' by 2030).
4. Empower local governments to demonstrate leadership through establishing an ambitious "stretch code" – a building code with energy efficiency standards exceeding the current building code while respecting affordability – that can be adopted by local governments by bylaw or policy.
5. Encourage and maintain local government authority to implement community energy systems.
6. Foster greater knowledge sharing and development of best practices. The focus of support for local governments should be on deployment of proven solutions based on strong experience.

The Way We Travel

After carbon tax increments, transportation is the next greatest priority. The way we travel is a direct result of land use patterns, and we recommend that policies focus beyond low emission vehicles to *emphasize transit-oriented development* and location-efficient development. The following actions are also needed to support the reduction of GHGs from transportation:

1. Provide significant and consistent investment in public transit and active transportation infrastructure across BC.
2. Double the current incentives for electric vehicles.
3. The Province to lead and fund the development of the EV charging network across BC.
4. Strongly support municipal and commercial fleets adopting electric or lower carbon fuels by mandating a minimum percentage of fleet vehicles use either electricity, bio-fuels, renewable diesel or renewable hydrogen.
5. Establish clear Provincial zero emission vehicle goals and regulations.
6. Establish a working group of UBCM, the Province and leading municipalities to identify policies and incentives to enable more complete, compact, energy efficient communities that encourage public transit use and active transportation.

The Way We Work

1) 80% of BC Local governments are managing climate action off the side of a staff person's desk. Staff capacity is required to manage community wide climate action initiatives. Appendix one contains a sample program to develop capacity.

[1] Smart Energy Communities as defined by QUEST Canada are ones that integrate conventional energy networks land use as well as harnesses local energy opportunities.

2) There should be financial and capacity support for local governments to develop renewable energy projects that benefit the local area environmentally, socially and economically. Examples could include biomass heating, district heating, solar gardens, etc.

Conclusions

The ideas we have put forward in this submission represent ideas that must be addressed if BC is going to fulfill its resolution as set out in the Climate Leadership Plan to "reduce emissions or adapt to changes underway and set us on a confident path forward towards our 2050 goals".

Yours Sincerely on behalf of the BC Mayors Climate Leadership Council

Mayor Richard Walton, Chair, BC MCLC

Additional BC MCLC Supporters

Mayor Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers
Mayor Lawrence Chernoff, City of Castlegar
Mayor Jon Lefebure, Municipality of North Cowichan
Mayor Darrell Mussatto, City of North Vancouver
Councillor Andrea Reimer, City of Vancouver
Councillor Cheryl Shuman, City of Dawson Creek
Mayor Luke Strimbold, Village of Burns Lake

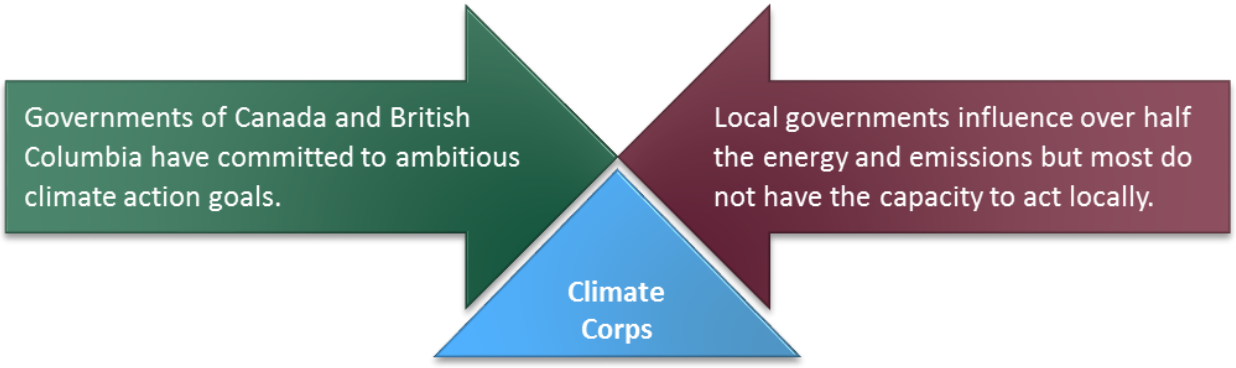
Appendix 1

Community Climate Corps

A Vision by the

Community Energy Association

A tension exists between **senior government ambition** and **local government capacity** on climate action.



Increasing capacity in small communities is 'table stakes' for ambitious climate action. Firstly, it is needed to achieve senior government targets. What happens when the benefits of better homes, better ways to move, and greener job opportunities are concentrated exclusively in large urban areas and small communities are left out?

Today

Federal and provincial ambition will run into a **brick wall of lack of capacity** in small local governments and first nations. There simply is not staff capacity to plan and manage policy development, home retrofits or green economy opportunities.

The **urban-rural divide** will continue to grow and **climate action support will further concentrate** in urban centers seeing the benefits of green infrastructure while smaller communities without the capacity are left behind.

In 2016, across Canada only 6% of communities have a Community Energy Plan and **less than 2%** are making strong progress on implementation.

BC communities have made more progress, but **80% of BC local governments don't have the staff capacity needed to manage the key elements of local climate action**. They do not have capacity to absorb green infrastructure grants or even to identify the best local opportunities. There is an implementation gap between community energy and emissions plans versus implementation. This gap is shrinking for the large communities and growing for small communities.

A Smarter Way

Senior governments fund **a Climate Corps of youth** who have been trained in community energy and emissions management. These youths are placed in small and mid-sized communities or geographic groups of communities across Canada. For 2-year terms, they **implement and manage community climate priorities** (community energy plans, retrofit programs, policy development) under the guidance of a coordination entity that understands both intern placement and community energy management. The benefits to youth include **skills and experience**. The communities participate in the shift to a **low-carbon economy in ways that make sense locally**. This **strengthens the fabric** of Canada by placing youth from across the country into communities across the country. The **creativity of 3,600 communities** across Canada (about 200 in BC) is unleased.

Numbers Behind the Need

Local Climate Action in Canada

- **3,600** # of municipalities in Canada
- **200** # of municipalities in Canada with Community Energy Plans
- **6%** of Canadian communities have plans
- **2.4%** of Canadian communities are making strong progress on climate plans (43% of 6%).

In BC

- **~120** communities have Community Energy and Emissions Plans (CEEPs)
- **~25** communities have community energy managers
- **~80% of BC communities are doing climate action implementation off the side of someone's desk**…if at all.
- There is an **implementation gap** between planning for renewable energy and reporting on studies / implementation or receiving funding. This gap is particularly acute in smaller communities where only ~20% have had projects or studies reported through CARIP or funded.

Scoping

- Assume $45,000 per intern (stipend, travel, training, coaching & oversight)
- 10 in BC could cover 20-30 communities (assuming several were shared among small communities like the RDEK shared community energy manager)
- Across Canada, 150 could provide deep and wide coverage across all of Canada.

Charts of 'CEP's in Canada' and 'Implementation Scores' from 'Community Energy Planning: Getting to Implementation in Canada!' project of CEA, QUEST, and Sustainable Prosperity. See www.gettingtoimplementation.ca for full reports.

Renewable energy BC gap analysis from 'Community Commitments to Renewable Energy' published by CEA with support from Province o

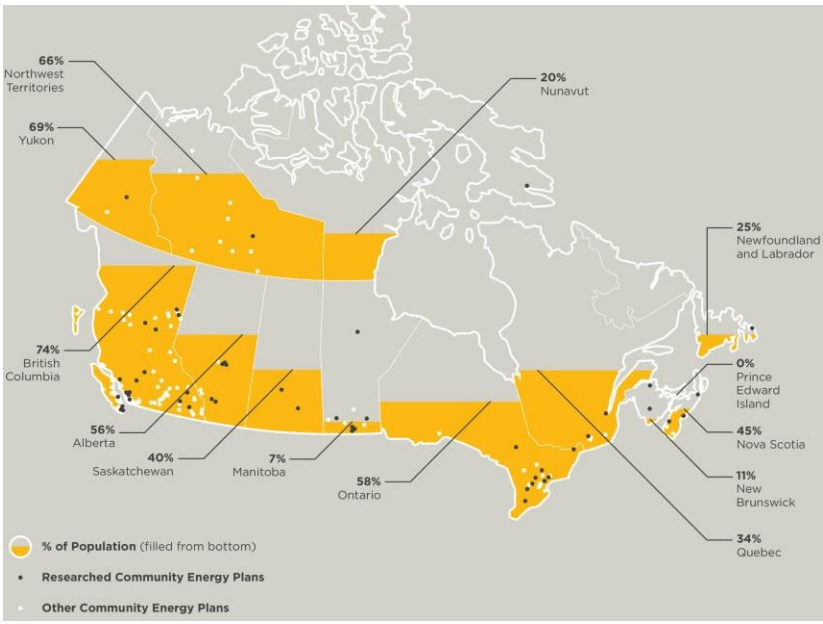


Figure 2.A – Community Energy Plan Implementation Scores