

**Local Government (Green Communities)
Legislative Amendments
(Bill 27, 2008)**

Information Resources

**May 2009
Intergovernmental Relations
and Planning Division**



Ministry of Community Development

The Provincial Government (Province) is committed to addressing climate change and to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent below current levels by 2020.

Government outlined the need to work on these issues in the 2007 and 2008 Speeches from the Throne as well as in Premier Gordon Campbell's Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention address in 2007.

Over the past two years the Province has been working to provide local governments with the tools and resources they need, including legislative changes in 2008, to support provincial greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals.

At the 2007 UBCM Convention, local governments, UBCM and the Province demonstrated their shared commitment to take action on climate change by signing onto the BC Climate Action Charter. By signing the Climate Action Charter local governments, in addition to becoming carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2012, have committed to:

- measure and report on their community's GHG emissions profile;
- create 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; and
- adopt zoning practices that encourage land use and patterns that increase density and reduce sprawl.

Bill 27, the *Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act* (2008) provides local governments with some additional powers to make changes in their communities, yet gives them the flexibility they require to adapt operations in ways that meet their unique needs and circumstances.

One of the key amendments focuses on local governments setting targets to reduce GHG emissions within their communities, as well as developing policies and actions to achieve those targets in their Official Community Plans by May 31, 2010, and in Regional Growth Strategies, for those regional districts where this is applicable, by May 31, 2011.

This is a list of resources which will provide Local Governments with context and information related to taking climate action. This is not an exhaustive list and will be updated as new information is available.

1. Documents to help set the framework for Climate Action

Climate Action Charter - Local governments from across British Columbia (B.C.) have joined with the Province and the UBCM, to find ways to tackle the challenges posed by climate change, pledging to significantly cut GHG emissions by 2012.

http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/ministry/whatsnew/climate_action_charter.htm

Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act, (Bill 27) 2008

The legislative amendments provide local governments with a variety of tools to help them reduce GHG emissions, conserve water and energy, and work towards creating more compact, complete and sustainable communities..

http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/intergov_relations/green_communities_legislation.htm
http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/intergov_relations/library/Bill27_Green_Communities_FAQs.pdf

Climate Action Plan is B.C.'s roadmap to a new, prosperous, green economy for the province. It outlines strategies and initiatives to take B.C. approximately 73 per cent towards meeting the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent by 2020. It also provides information on the many ways British Columbians can reduce energy consumption and save money while reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.
<http://www.livesmartbc.ca/government/plan.html>

Living Water Smart is the Province's plan to keep our water healthy and secure for the future. Check this site often to learn how B.C. is working to protect and preserve our water — and how you can be involved!
<http://www.livingwatersmart.ca>

Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) Reports - The 2007 CEEI Reports represent high level estimated community energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from on-road transportation, buildings, solid waste and land-use change (deforestation at regional district scale only). Additional sectors and detail will be explored in subsequent years.
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/climate/ceei/>

CEEI Reports "Draft User Guide" - This User Guide provides an overview of the information included in each sector of the draft 2007 CEEI Reports. Each section describes the information included for each sector, the methodology and calculations used, some limitations of the data, and the data sources used. Existing limitations in some of the province-wide data and analysis tools (e.g., Translation Master File) will be the focus of improvement in future CEEI reporting years. A short section on how a community may choose to use 2007 CEEI Reports concludes the document.
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/climate/ceei/pdf/ceei-user-guide.pdf>

B.C. Air Action Plan - The Air Action Plan sets out 28 actions to reduce air pollution, complementing the government's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and the new B.C. Energy Plan which ensures, among other things, that at least 90 per cent of the electricity generated in B.C. will continue to come from clean or renewable sources.
<http://www.bcairsmart.ca/docs/bcairactionplan.pdf>

BC Energy Plan - This plan looks to all forms of clean, alternative energy in meeting British Columbians' needs in the provincial economy. Bioenergy, geothermal energy, tidal, run-of-river, solar and wind power are all potential energy sources in a clean, renewable future.
http://www.energyplan.gov.bc.ca/PDF/BC_Energy_Plan.pdf

Energy Efficient Buildings Strategy – Sets new targets that support the goals of the BC Energy Plan. The Strategy involves taking action on climate change in our homes, workplaces and communities. It delivers education, resources and diverse options for increasing energy efficiency.

<http://www.energyplan.gov.bc.ca/efficiency/PDF/EEBS-2008-Web.pdf>

2. Documents produced by Ministry of Community Development (MCD) to help local governments in addressing Climate Action

A Guide to Green Choices - Ideas & Practical Advice for Land Use Decisions in British Columbia Communities - To help local governments continue the extensive work they have already done in fostering green communities, the Ministry of Community Development has developed to provide practical advice and ideas in making land use decisions. <http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lqd/planning/greenchoices.htm>

Integrated Resource Recovery - Integrated Resource Recovery (IRR) is an integrated, whole-system approach to planning and managing infrastructure to maximize the recovery of value from waste resources. This approach mimics the closed-loop cycles present in all ecosystems, providing local sources of energy, water and other resources, to reduce demand from external or new sources.

http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lqd/infra/resources_from_waste.htm

Resources from Waste: A Guide to Integrated Resource Recovery - This IRR Guide is intended for those who plan, design, and fund infrastructure - including water, wastewater, transportation, energy, and solid waste. Although it is technical in nature, it is also intended to be a resource for the broader community which uses this infrastructure. It offers suggestions for making municipal infrastructure, and the communities served by the infrastructure, more economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable by extracting value from the resources in waste.

http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lqd/infra/library/resources_from_waste.pdf

Trees for Tomorrow - Trees for Tomorrow is a Province of British Columbia initiative designed to support urban and rural communities in the planting of millions of trees in schoolyards, hospital grounds, civic parks, campuses, parking lots and other public spaces throughout British Columbia over the next five years.

<http://www.treesfortomorrow.gov.bc.ca/>

Planting our Future - The Planting our Future Guidebook that was designed to provide an overview of the tools and strategies that can be used to help communities to enhance the values in their urban forest and address some of the challenges.

<http://www.treesfortomorrow.gov.bc.ca/resources/Plantingourfuture.pdf>

3. Other information resources

Smart Planning for Communities - Smart Planning for Communities (SPC) is a new B.C. wide collaborative initiative to assist local and First Nations governments in addressing their long-term sustainability challenges by providing resources and tools for planning socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable communities. SPC offers practical and current information and advice on integrated community sustainability planning from expert Sustainability Facilitators located across British

Columbia. SPC helps to build mutually beneficial partnerships and develop an information-sharing and resource network. The result will be stronger, more vibrant and sustainable communities.

http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/programs/smart_planning.html

BC Climate Action Toolkit is a climate action resource for local government by local government in collaboration with UBCM and the Province.

<http://www.toolkit.bc.ca>

Green Bylaws Toolkit - The purpose of this *Green Bylaws Toolkit* is to provide local governments (municipal and regional) and the public with practical tools for protecting the green infrastructure. It includes bylaw language that local governments in B.C. are using to protect sensitive ecosystems and explains the various legal approaches to protection, their benefits and drawbacks.

<http://www.greenbylaws.ca/>

CivicInfoBC - CivicInfo BC is an award-winning, co-operative information service for those who work, or have an interest in British Columbia's local government sector. The main goal of CivicInfo BC is to facilitate the free and open exchange of local government information, which is done primarily through this web site.

<http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/index.asp>

Waterbucket – The waterbucket website is the key to the communication strategy for the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia. It is designed to provide the complete story on integrated water management – why, what, where and how. The website is a partnership initiative led by the Water Sustainability Committee and the BC Water & Waste Association.

<http://www.waterbucket.ca/>

Water Balance Model - The vision for the Water Balance Model powered by QUALHYMO...as a decision support tool that bridges engineering and planning...is that it will help communities create neighbourhoods that integrate both good planning and innovative engineering designs, for overall objectives of greater sustainability, such as:

- minimal environmental impacts
- enhanced social values
- economic stability, and
- recreational opportunities

<http://www.waterbalance.ca/>

Community Energy Association (CEA) - Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) Guide – As awareness of climate change grows and energy prices escalate, B.C. local governments are becoming more interested in completing an energy and greenhouse gas emissions plan for their community. This guide describes the purpose and content of a community energy and emissions plan, its benefits, and how to go about creating one. The guide provides practical tips, examples from B.C. communities, and links to more detailed information. It is not intended to be comprehensive, but rather to provide sufficient information for local government staff and elected officials to understand the key components of a successful plan and point to further resources where a more detailed approach is desired.

<http://www.communityenergy.bc.ca/resources-introduction/community-energy-emissions-planning-guide>

CEA Energy Sustainability Case Study Guide - This case study guide is a directory to a wide range of existing, practical, energy-related case studies that can inspire work toward community energy sustainability. The guide is intended to assist local government staff and elected officials to find appropriate information to support local government energy planning, efficiency and renewable energy. While this guide presents numerous case studies for action on climate change, it is not intended to provide information on adaptation to climate change impacts.

<http://www.communityenergy.bc.ca/sites/default/files/CEA%20Case%20Study%20Guide.2008Oct.pdf>

CEA Brief for Elected Government Officials – Energy Sustainability Planning: What’s in it for my community?

http://www.communityenergy.bc.ca/sites/default/files/CEA%20Brief_Sept07.pdf

We are interested in hearing from you. If you have a resource that you think would be suitable, please contact Stephanie Walton, Planning Systems Analyst, (stephanie.walton@gov.bc.ca) with more information.

Please contact the Intergovernmental Relations and Planning Division for further information at:

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