

August 31, 2011

New homes in Campbell River to be ready for solar hot water

At its Aug. 30 meeting, City Council adopted amendments to the Building Bylaw to ensure new single family homes will be built ready for solar hot water heating.

The amended bylaw comes into effect Oct. 3, and all building permit applications for single family dwellings and single family dwellings with suites will be required to have areas designated for solar collectors, space for a solar water heater in a utility room, and two conduits between the areas to support future installation of a solar hot water system.

The amended bylaw incorporates requirements in the provincial Solar Hot Water Ready Regulation passed June 21 by the Minister of Energy and Mines and Minister Responsible for Housing.

“Building solar ready will have a minor impact on construction costs for new homes, and will result in significant savings for homeowners. We have a climate that is conducive to solar hot water, so finding ways to help make solar feasible for home owners is a great opportunity,” says Peter Woods, Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee.

According to the Province, to construct new homes to be solar ready will cost developers between \$250-500 per home. This up-front investment will significantly reduce future costs of installing solar hot water for the homeowner as the house will not require any further building modifications.

Campbell River’s participation in the Solar Hot Water Ready Regulation stemmed from a recommendation made to Council by the City’s multi-stakeholder Environment and Development Advisory Committees.

“We are proud that Campbell River is one of 36 communities in British Columbia to sign on to the solar hot water ready regulation, and we hope this sparks the installation of more solar hot water systems in local homes,” Woods adds.

Campbell River is recognized as one of British Columbia’s newest solar communities, winning the 2010 *BC Solar Community of the Year Award*, in recognition of demonstrated leadership in promoting solar hot water.

For more information on the solar hot water ready regulations visit the City’s website www.campbellriver.ca or the Ministry’s website <http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/green/solar/index.htm>

– 30 –

Contact: Ron Neufeld, General Manager Operations

250-286-5765