

April 6, 2011

Campbell River wins provincial Solar Community award

The City of Campbell River won a 2010 provincial Solar Community Award last week at the Solar BC Awards Ceremony held in the T'sou-ke First Nation community.

Campbell River was recognized for its leadership in using solar technology for municipal facilities and infrastructure. The City uses solar panels to heat the hot water at the Sportsplex, RCMP Station, Fire Hall #1 and the new lift station on Hwy 19A. The City has also installed 12 solar-powered crosswalks and two solar radar recorders, and partnered with School District 72 to fundraise for the installation of a solar hot water system at Timberline Secondary, which is now fully functional.

The other two BC communities recognized for their efforts to promote solar energy were Fort St. John and the District of North Vancouver. The awards were presented by Nitya Harris, Executive Director of Solar BC and Les MacLaren, Assistant Deputy Minister of Electricity and Alternative Energy Division with the Ministry of Energy.

"We are very pleased to present our Solar Community Award to the City of Campbell River for all the solar initiatives that they have already completed and for continuing to explore new solar possibilities and projects into the future," said Nitya Harris, Executive Director of SolarBC.

Promoting solar energy as a viable green power source is part of the City of Campbell River's commitment to the Climate Action Charter, which requires local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and become carbon neutral in operations by 2012. Campbell River's Green City Strategy also identifies renewable energy demonstration as a Council priority.

"Being named a Solar Community of the year is a great honor for Campbell River. Our goal is to be an inspiration for other BC communities and to demonstrate that solar power is a viable renewable energy source – even in our coastal, often rainy, climate," said Mayor Charlie Cornfield.

During BC Solar Days every May, the City offers solar home tours, educational workshops and contests for youth. Last year, more than 60 people participated in the solar homes tour, and the City is already starting to organize this year's events, scheduled for May 31.

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Photos:

1/. Solar panels on roof of Sportsplex

2/. City of Campbell River environmental coordinator Terri Martin, and Peter Woods, chair of the City's Environmental Advisory Committee accept the Solar Community award.