

# SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS—2011



## **Sustainable Official Community Plan - Civic Engagement Award**

The City has completed a draft Sustainable Official Community Plan (SOCP), which integrates a sustainability framework, and social, cultural, economic and environmental objectives. The plan has included partnership with the We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum and Homalco First Nations, and has been guided by a multi-stakeholder Steering Committee. More than 1500 residents participated in the development of the draft Sustainable Official Community Plan. **In recognition of the City's Community Engagement efforts, Campbell River took a first place win in the Civic Engagement Category at the UBCM Excellence Awards in Vancouver, BC.** To read the draft plan visit [www.sustainablecampbellriver.ca](http://www.sustainablecampbellriver.ca)

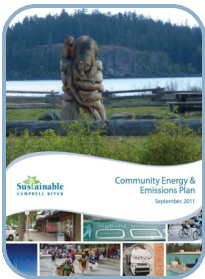
## **Agriculture Plan – Recognized by Province**

City Council adopted Campbell River's first Agriculture Plan in October 2011. The Agriculture Plan was endorsed by the Province with an official signing at the legislature on November 22, 2011 by the Honourable Don McRae, Minister of Agriculture, who commented on the significance of the initiative and development of the Plan as a major step toward economic diversification and job creation. The plan was also recognized by the Honorable Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation. In a letter to the City, Minister Bell recognized the significance of the new Agriculture Plan, noting that a robust agrifoods sector in Campbell River is good news for business, investment and job creation. To read the plan visit [www.sustainablecampbellriver.ca](http://www.sustainablecampbellriver.ca)



## **Corporate Carbon Neutral Plan Adopted**

In an effort to lighten its carbon footprint, in January 2011, the City adopted a new plan that aims to reduce City greenhouse gas emissions to 10 per cent below 2008 levels by 2012. The plan includes long-term targets of a 35 per cent reduction by 2020 and, by the year 2050, City emissions reduced to 85 per cent below 2008 levels. The City of Campbell River is one of the 178 signatories of the B.C. Climate Action Charter committed to becoming carbon neutral in its government operations by 2012. To read the plan click here: [Carbon Neutral Plan](#)



## **Community Energy and Emissions Plan Adopted**

In October 2011, the City adopted a Community Energy and Emissions Plan. This plan provides an overview of the energy and emissions generated by residents and businesses in Campbell River, sets greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, and provides an implementation strategy to work toward greenhouse gas emissions reductions. This plan enables the City to meet provincial requirements under Bill 27. The plan was 100% funded through grants from BC Hydro and the Real Estate Foundation, and Federation of Canadian Municipalities. To read the plan visit [www.sustainablecampbellriver.ca](http://www.sustainablecampbellriver.ca)

## **Task Force on Energy and Emissions Pilot**

Campbell River was selected by BC Hydro to be the first BC community to pilot a Task Force on Energy and Emissions. The Task Force was a multi-stakeholder group that shaped the development of the City's Community Energy and Emissions Plan. The aim of the Task Force was to provide City Council strategic advice on economic development opportunities associated with energy conservation, renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reductions. The work of the Task Force was funded through a \$10,000 grant from BC Hydro. In recognition of the City's leadership in addressing climate change and energy issues, the City's Mayor was selected as the regional representative for Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast on the Community Energy Association's Mayor's Climate Leadership Council.



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## **Questions?**

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## **Energy Retrofits and the Green Roof Result in Savings**

Since 2007, overall energy consumption at City Hall has been on a downward trend, resulting in approximately 25% reduction and savings of almost \$15,000 per year at today's electricity rates. The significant energy reductions are linked to the Green Roof at City Hall and comprehensive energy retrofits to the building's lighting and HVAC systems. In 2011 the City also completed energy retrofits at the Sportsplex and Enterprise Centre, and is in the process of upgrading T12 lighting to more efficient lighting. These energy retrofits, including the Green Roof, have been 100% funded through external grant funding.

## **Green Building Leaders Pilot Community**

The City of Campbell River was selected by the Pembina Institute as one of two BC communities to explore the viability of a potential provincial minimum renewable energy requirement for all new buildings. This concept is similar to the Merton Rule in place in the United Kingdom, which requires a minimum of 10% renewable energy for new buildings. Workshops were held with local developers, City Council and City staff, and the Pembina Institute is currently exploring this concept with other BC communities. [More...](#)

## **First Canadian Municipal Tidal Power Feasibility Study Completed**

In August 2011, Campbell River became the first Canadian municipality to undertake a tidal power feasibility study. Campbell River is uniquely positioned on the Discovery Passage, an area with some of the best tidal sites in Canada. According to the Ocean Renewable Energy Group, six of the top 50 tidal sites in Canada are located in close proximity to Campbell River. The feasibility study results can be used to work with industry to promote Campbell River as a test site for tidal power technology. Campbell River now has the opportunity to access complete tidal model mapping of the Discovery Passage area surrounding the community that could also be used for developers interested in larger scale tidal demonstration projects.



## **Wind Project in Exploratory Stages**

As follow-up from a partnership with Science World on a funding application to the Clean Energy Fund, the City has recently received a report on potential wind energy sites in Campbell River. Phoenix School and Robron Park have emerged as two of the most viable sites in Campbell River, and the City is currently working with School District 72 to explore options for a small-scale wind turbine demonstration project. The next steps in the project include installing anemometers at each of the sites to verify project viability.

## **Solar Initiatives**

The Province of BC passed new legislation that requires construction of new single family dwellings and single family dwellings with suites to be built to be solar hot water ready. Campbell River is one of 36 communities in BC that have signed onto this regulation which enables construction of new single family dwellings and single family dwellings with suites to be built to be solar hot water ready. At its regular meeting on August 30, 2011 Campbell River City Council adopted revisions to the City's Building Bylaw to implement the new Provincial Solar Hot Water Ready Regulations. Solar hot water initiatives were featured on CTV and the French Channel of CBC, as well as in the Solar BC newsletter. [More...](#)



## **Communities in Bloom – National Awards**

The City of Campbell River won first place overall at the National Communities in Bloom Competition. The City also received a first place award in the Sustainable Development Category and Honorable Mention in the Environmental Action Category.



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## **City Joins Sustainable Cities International**

In recognition of the City's leadership in sustainability initiatives, the City of Campbell River was invited to join the Sustainable Cities International network of cities engaged in long-range sustainability planning. There are 35 communities in the peer-learning network. Other members include Portland, Olympia, Metro Vancouver, Calgary, Ottawa, Iqaluit, Durban, South Africa, Adelaide, Australia and many others. Campbell River became an official member of the network in June 2011. <http://sustainablecities.net>

## **Campbell River Recycles Online Directory**

The City of Campbell River launched a new tool to make recycling easier. The online community recycling directory ([www.campbellriverrecycles.ca](http://www.campbellriverrecycles.ca)) details where residents and businesses can recycle more than what can be picked up at curbside. The directory provides online maps to indicate where to return a range of items such as medication, hazardous material and appliances that may otherwise end up in the landfill.



## **Youth Action Committee Launched**

In October 2011, the City of Campbell River launched a Youth Action Committee for youth between the ages of 14 and 18 years old. The Youth Action Committee is helping develop a Youth Charter and Youth Engagement Strategy for Campbell River, and will provide strategic advice to Council.



## **Green Canada Day**

This year Canada Day had a green theme in Campbell River. Composting and recycling were available at each of the major event venues, and a green vendor award was provided to the greenest business – Acropolis Kuzina. The Water Department also supplied refill water stations at Robert Ostler and Frank James Parks in an effort to eliminate single-use plastic water bottles.

## **Environmental Events and Committees**

The City of Campbell River has an active multi-stakeholder Environmental Advisory Committee and a staff-based Green Team, which provide the City with strategic advice on environmental protection, and sustainability projects and plans. The City also have an active partnership with School District 72 on energy and waste reduction initiatives, including the Annual Earth Day Festivities at the Tidemark Theatre. Each year, the City participates in a wide range of community events such as River's Day, Ocean's Day, the Bald Eagle Festival, National Waste Reduction Week, Earth Hour, and the bi-annual Home Expos.

## **Marine Foreshore Habitat Assessment and Restoration Plan Adopted**

Adopted in October 2011 the plan outlines a comprehensive approach to shoreline management that incorporates natural processes and ecosystems. While still in draft form, the City was already moving forward with soft shore restorations at badly eroded sites using the report's initial analysis for guidance. For the very first time, forage fish egg sampling was included as part of the environmental management plan in place for the restorations. The report will form the basis for a Memorandum of Understanding with DFO and the Province which will streamline regulatory processes. The report also incorporates recent work underway by the Province on sea level rise and coastal flood hazard land use. <http://sustainablecampbellriver.ca>



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## **Provincial Woodstove Exchange Program Continues**

By the end of April 2011, the City of Campbell River had issued 75, \$250 rebate cheques to residents that replaced their old smoky wood burning appliances with high-efficiency wood, pellet or gas units. The rebates were made possible through the Provincial Wood Stove Exchange Program and many of the participating retailers offered additional rebates at the point of sale. The program also included a variety of educational presentations from *Burn It Smart* to expert advice from the Provincial Meteorologist and localized air quality monitoring through a partnership with the University of Victoria's Spatial Science Laboratory. Additional funding has been secured to continue the popular program in 2012. [More...](#)



## **Urban Forest Management Plan Inventory Underway**

Working in partnership with Discovery Coast Greenways Land Trust, funding was secured from the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia for Phase I of an Urban Forest Management Plan for the City of Campbell River. The urban forest is an important natural asset and resource integral to the community health and livability and developing a management plan was recommended by a number of the City's Advisory Committees. The current inventory phase will quantify the health and calculate the extent of the current canopy coverage, as well as determine coverage goals for specific land use types. Phase II of the project will define and develop community modules to help guide all aspects of urban forest management from *Character Tree* recognition and street tree programs to climate change adaptation strategies.

## **Species at Risk Local Government Working Group**

The City of Campbell River is a member of the Species at Risk Local Government Working Group facilitated by the Province. In 2011, the Working Group completed an action oriented Discussion Paper to further our shared conservation goals to better protect the more than 1,500 plant and animal species at risk in British Columbia. Many of the action items target the Province and concern training at the Local Government level in order to improve policy development. The Province will continue to work with UBCM to deliver on action items and specialized local government training is planned for 2012.

## **City Stewardship Awards Program Celebrated 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

This program recognizes outstanding environmental achievements of individuals, groups, development, business, and industry. In celebration of the program's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary the award categories included air quality, pesticide free, water and energy conservation, habitat protection and creation, waste reduction, youth achievements, and environmental excellence. The awards were presented by the Mayor at the annual Haig-Brown Festival on River's Day in September.



## **Idle Free Education Up and Running**

With a hearty endorsement from the Environmental Advisory Committee, Idle Free education has become part of our air shed messaging. Information was included at the Earth Week Celebrations, during Bike to Work Week displays, during Ocean's Day and in the Live Green Guide published by the Courier Islander. Idle Free signs have been posted at four City facilities paralleling School District 72's signage efforts and Bylaw staff are working with the public at key locations to change idling behaviour. Idle Free builds on the City's Anti-Idling Policy that targets ways to minimize emissions produced during day to day operations.



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