

March 10, 2011

City sets course to make corporate operations carbon neutral by 2012

In an effort to lighten its carbon footprint, the City has adopted a new plan that aims to reduce City greenhouse gas emissions to 10 per cent below 2008 levels by 2012.

At its Jan. 18 meeting, City Council adopted the plan, which 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.

“The City pledges its continued commitment to addressing climate challenges with this plan,” says Mayor Charlie Cornfield. “The plan lays out how the City will continue to implement conservation policies and reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from its municipal corporate operations. Emissions will be reduced through strategic actions, and where necessary offset to zero by purchasing carbon offsets.”

The total emissions from Campbell River’s municipal operations such as fleet vehicles, utilities, solid waste and buildings are calculated in the City’s greenhouse gas emissions.

Actions that have already improved the City’s energy efficiency and conservation include adopting a corporate anti-idling policy, installing solar thermal on four civic buildings, comprehensive energy retrofits to City facilities, replacement of conventional fleet vehicles with hybrids and a green roof retrofit at City Hall – all funded 100 per cent by federal and provincial grants.

The City is also working on innovative renewable energy projects such as a small scale tidal power demonstration and a tidal power project.

– 30 –

Contact: Amber Zirnhelt, Sustainability Manager

250-286-5742