

September 20, 2013

City of Campbell River and School District 72 Win Climate and Energy Action Award

The City of Campbell River and School District 72 won the Public Sector Collaboration category of the Climate and Energy Action Awards for their partnership in environmental efforts. The award was presented at the 2013 Union of BC Municipalities Convention on September 18.

"The awards highlight the incredible momentum amongst BC communities toward achieving energy sustainability," said Darrell Mussatto, Co-chair of the Community Energy Association and Mayor of the City of North Vancouver. *"Many municipalities are well on their way to meeting their greenhouse gas emission reduction targets."*

Over the last four years, School District 72 has collaborated with the City on the development of a Community Energy and Emissions Plan, committed to the community energy pledge, and jointly accomplished significant energy retrofits to School District facilities helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Campbell River.

The City, School District 72 and North Island College collaborated on solar hot water and electric vehicle charging station installations at Timberline Secondary School. The City and School District worked together on wind energy assessments to explore the feasibility of a wind turbine at École Phoenix Middle School and Robron Park and on energy efficiency measures. These projects have reduced total greenhouse gas emissions by 12 per cent compared to the City's 2008 emissions and by 19 per cent compared to the School District's 2009 emissions, while also reducing operating costs.

School District 72's energy retrofit projects alone have resulted in an annual savings of \$193,700 from projects implemented since April 2009.

The School District is also a co-signatory on the Youth Action Charter, committing to an ongoing partnership with the City to focus on climate action, environmental protection and youth engagement. The Youth Action Committee provides youth feedback on City projects, plans and sustainability initiatives.

"This partnership has resulted in significant energy savings and behaviour change and has created leadership at multiple levels," said Mayor Walter Jakeway. *"It also helps our youth become involved in planning for Campbell River's sustainability, which is essential to creating a resilient, low-carbon community over the long term."*

By involving staff, students and senior management in both organizations, the City and School District are raising the profile of energy conservation initiatives and making great gains in energy conservation in Campbell River.

"Two pillars of our Strategic Plan are building an environmental ethic and community engagement. We are extremely proud of our partnership with the City and all that our organizations have accomplished to-date," said Michele Babchuk, Board Chair for School District 72. *"This award is a testament to the hard work of both City and School District staff."*

The awards are organized annually by the Community Energy Association in partnership with the Province of BC, Union of BC Municipalities, BC Hydro and FortisBC.

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