

April 15, 2013

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**RE: SUBMISSION FOR FCM PCP MILESTONES 4 AND 5**

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Thank you for agreeing to review the District of Saanich's (Saanich's) submission for achieving the Federation of Municipalities (FCM) Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) milestones 4 and 5 for both corporate and community categories. The following provides an explanation of planning, actions and review for Saanich's corporate and community efforts to tackle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Since 2007, Saanich has gradually built a foundation for climate action that has fortified climate action efforts through to 2020. When the municipality adopted the Climate Action Plan in 2010, it committed Saanich to a 50% reduction in corporate GHG emissions by 2020 and a 33% reduction in community GHG emissions by 2020 based on the 2007 baselines. Through a range of corporate and community projects, Saanich is leading many new initiatives and programs which can all be found at [www.climateaction.saanich.ca](http://www.climateaction.saanich.ca)

### **Funding**

There have been two main sources of funding for programs and initiatives in Saanich. The majority of the corporate actions have been funded through the Saanich Carbon Fund, an innovative tool that provides an offsetting alternative to the municipality. For example, Saanich's corporate inventory for 2012 was 4,684 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. The municipality then calculated out a contribution to the Fund of \$117,100 for 2011, based on a carbon pricing of \$25 per tonne. A summary of Saanich's greenhouse gas inventories over the last 5 years is provided in **Table 2 of this report**.

The initial community climate actions were been funded through a Federal Gas Tax Innovations Fund grant that was received in 2008. Saanich made the most of this grant by establishing a permanent foundation for climate action through the 2010 Climate Action Plan and the 2011 Climate Change Adaptation Plan. Now Saanich provides funding for community projects through its new Sustainability Community Fund, which utilizes municipal carbon tax rebate dollars to fund local initiatives.

### **Resources and Stakeholders**

Since 2008, when the municipality first established the Sustainability Coordinator position, Saanich's has implemented a range of corporate and community actions including those from the Climate Action Plan and several additional programs that were developed along the way.

Starting in 2008, Saanich began to assign GHG responsibility to each department in the organization. This has been essential in helping each department understand and take ownership for its carbon footprint. Saanich also has maintained a corporate green team which meet quarterly to engage staff throughout the organization on the development, implementation and reporting of GHG reduction initiatives.

For community initiatives, the Saanich Environmental Advisory Committee provides continual feedback on potential initiatives and programs that are a priority for the community. This is a Committee that consists of residents from the Saanich community and one or two Councilors.

Communication of results is conducted in two ways:

1. Annual reporting to the community is provided within our Saanich Strategic Plan. This reporting provides a summary of actions from the past year, planned actions for the upcoming year and GHG emissions data.
2. Annual reporting is also provided through the Climate Action website where corporate and community emissions and program information are summarized. The site also has climate action updates for specific reporting of success stories.  
<http://saanich.ca/living/climate/progressreports.html>

The Saanich Climate Action Program also engages 500 residents through a Climate Action Newsletter as well as an active presence on Facebook and Twitter (@SaanichClimate). However, the primary portal for sharing information with residents remains the Climate Action website, [www.climateaction.saanich.ca](http://www.climateaction.saanich.ca). These tools have been used throughout the milestone process along with multiple community engagement sessions during the lead up to each climate action plan.

## **Implementation**

The initial implementation schedule of actions is not based on a strictly dictated timeline. Each action with the Plan was assigned as a short-term (1 to 2 years) or long-term (2-5 years) initiative. The plan will be revised on a 3 year cycle, which means an updated version of the Climate Action Plan will be developed in 2013.

In **Appendix 1**, Saanich has provided a status update for all of the actions documented in the original Climate Action Plan. Of the 88 actions listed, almost all were enacted on and have led to considerable elevation of the climate action program at Saanich. Most of the actions have been completed while a few have been deemed not feasible or have not been reported back on by responsible departments.

## **Saanich Corporate Milestones 4 and 5**

Saanich is pleased to report that since 2007, the municipality has reduced its corporate carbon footprint by 14%. Saanich started to conduct GHG inventories for its operations starting with the 2007 year and the annual inventories for each year since are provided in **Table 2** on the next page.

Below is a list that highlights the corporate projects that involved specific partnerships, additional funding, or had potential reduction estimations. The remainder of the initiatives are listed in **Appendix 1** was managed internally using in-kind time from staff.

**Table 1: Saanich Corporate Initiatives to January 1, 2013**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Estimated Reduction</b>
Solar Hot Water System Installed at Gordon Head Recreation centre	Apricus Solar – provided partial donation of system as part of pilot project.	Carbon Fund	20 tCO <sub>2</sub> e annually
Electric Zamboni replaces Propane Unit at Perkes Arena	n/a	Carbon Fund	10 tCO <sub>2</sub> e annually
Electric gator purchased for use at municipal hall	n/a	Carbon Fund	1 tCO <sub>2</sub> e annually
Electric Car purchased for Saanich Police Department	Mitsubishi Motors	Carbon Fund	4 tCO <sub>2</sub> e annually
Fleet Centre natural gas heating switch out and bay door automation.	None	Carbon Fund	20 tCO <sub>2</sub> e annually
Fire Hall #3 heating oil switch out.	None	Carbon Fund	10 tCO <sub>2</sub> e annually
Multiple lighting upgrades throughout municipal buildings.	BC Hydro	Carbon Fund BC Hydro Rebates	10 tCO <sub>2</sub> e annually
E3 Fleet Program Initiatives	Fraser Basin Council	Internal Gas Tax - IF	512 tCO <sub>2</sub> e annually (since 2007)
Energy Service Contract Program	MCW	ESCO Loan	300 tCO <sub>2</sub> e annually (since 2007)

Other actions of note that were not included in the original Climate Action Plan include:

- 2013 replacement of aging natural gas boilers at the Saanich Municipal Hall and the Gordon Head Recreation Centre with new high-efficiency boilers.
- 2013 purchase of two new Nissan Leaf electric vehicles.
- Two new green building additions at Gordon Head Recreation Centre and Cedar Hill Recreation Centre completed in 2011 and 2012.
- Energy audits completed for all 8 Saanich owned Heritage Buildings, which will lead to energy efficiency upgrades. This is a program that benefits both corporate and community emissions initiatives. Saanich has a significant number of older homes that require energy efficiency upgrades and the municipality will be sharing the results of this program with the community.

**Table 2: Saanich Corporate GHG Summary 2007-2012**

<b>GHG Emissions</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2007 -2012 Total Reduction %</b>	<b>2007-2012 Total Reductions</b>
Total GHG (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	5,446	5,084	4,813	4,798	4,879	4,684	14%	764
Rolling 3-Year Avg	5,446	5,265	5,114	4,899	4,830	4,786	12%	660
Hydro (kWh)	20,304,469	20,469,181	20,135,953	20,183,339	19,981,506	20,188,344	1%	116,125
Hydro (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	447	450	443	505	500	507	-13%	-60
Terasen (GJ)	39,108	36,590	36,235	36,139	40,468	37,528	4%	1,581
Terasen (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	1,995	1,866	1,848	1,818	2,036	1,876	6%	118
Propane (L)	29,337	29,337	29,337	26,675	23,960	11,451	23%	6,886
Propane (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	45	45	45	41	37	35	23%	11
Heating Oil (L)	28,351	28,351	28,351	24,709	26,636	13,668	52%	14,683
Heating Oil (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	81	81	81	68	73	36	55%	45
Unleaded (L)	617,687	553,593	511,722	476,647	442,947	441,556	29%	176,131
Unleaded (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	1,489	1,334	1,233	1,123	1,046	1,016	32%	473
Biodiesel (L)	503,525	499,347	444,097	497,833	475,165	487,727	3%	15,798
Biodiesel (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	1,390	1,308	1,164	1,245	1,188	1,214	13%	176
Total Fuels (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	2,879	2,642	2,397	2,367	2,234	2,230	23%	649

## **Saanich Community Milestones 4 and 5**

For Saanich's community emissions, the municipality has been grateful to have the provincial Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) for 2007 to use as a baseline. The inventory for the 2010 year has been completed and can be found here:

[www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/mitigation/ceei/RegionalDistricts/Capital/ceei\\_2010\\_saanich\\_district\\_municipality.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/mitigation/ceei/RegionalDistricts/Capital/ceei_2010_saanich_district_municipality.pdf)

The data shows that overall community emissions in Saanich have risen slightly from 2007 to 2010, which was commonly found throughout the Capital Region. Improvements can be seen in residential and commercial building emissions, but transportation related emissions continue to be a significant issue.

Community actions are much more challenging to quantify, particularly when it comes to measuring the impacts of community programs on behaviour change. Saanich believes in a philosophy of leading by example (in our own operations) and building partnerships in the community to lead climate action. In particular, working with schools and businesses is identified as primary opportunities to engage residential behaviour change. **Table 3** below lists these programs and where possible, project partners, funding sources, funding amounts (where defined) and estimated reductions have been provided.

**Table 3: Saanich Community Initiatives to January 1, 2013**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Estimated Reduction</b>
Saanich Community Sustainability Grants	Community Associations and Non-Profit Organizations	50% of CARIP carbon tax rebate  \$60,000	Grants currently being awarded to local groups.
Sustainable Saanich Lecture Series	Multiple speakers	Internal  Gas Tax – IF \$2,000	Behaviour Change
Climate Smart Business Program 2011	Pacific Carbon Trust	District of Saanich \$7,500  Pacific Carbon Trust \$5,000	Dependent on the actions of the businesses.
Climate Smart Business Program 2012	Climate Smart Capital Regional District City of Victoria	District of Saanich \$16,000  Capital Regional District \$32,000  City of Victoria \$16,000	Dependent on the actions of the businesses.
Energy Efficient Heritage Homes Program	City Green Solutions	Carbon Fund \$5,000	Behaviour Change
Community Carbon Fund	Wild BC	Saanich Carbon Fund \$5,000  WildBC \$5,000	Behaviour Change

Carbon Champions Program	Multiple Community Partners	Internal Gas Tax - IF \$2,000	Behaviour Change
TapbyTap Showerhead Exchange Program	Capital Regional District	Internal Gas Tax – IF \$5,000	105 tCO2e
CRD Transportation Tune-Up Program	Capital Regional District	Capital Regional District	Behaviour Change
Green Home Building Rebate Program	City Green Solutions	CAEE \$60,000 Saanich \$40,000	Led to the green building certification of more than 80 homes in Saanich.
SolarBC Solar Hot Water Rebate Program	SolarBC	SolarBC \$20,000	Approximately 50 installs translating into about 25 tonnes of GHG

The municipality also established a community [Carbon Fund Calculator](#) that provided residents with a educational opportunity, but also a chance to donate to local climate projects based on their own carbon footprint. These dollars contributed to the Community Carbon Fund and our first project was a partnership with WildBC that saw the delivery of individual and class action projects that support energy conservation, leadership opportunities and behaviour changes in two Saanich middle schools. School students and staff will learn about climate change, make a pledge to take action and reach out to their peers and the community to participate in action projects. The project was communicated out to the public here:

<https://saanich.ca:8443/webapp/cop/pdfs/1SaanichandWildBC.pdf>

Saanich has started down a path of commitment to climate action, and the investments made are beginning to make impacts throughout the community and the organization. We hope you find the information contained within this report adequate to provide us with a FCM PCP Milestone 5 rating for our community and corporate programs. We are proud to be a part of this program, which has led to significant progress across all of Canada.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would also be happy to discuss over the phone in further detail. Thank you.

Sincerely,

MARK BOYSEN  
SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

MCB/adm

Attachment:

Appendix 1: Status of Saanich Climate Action Plan Initiatives