



5.6 GREENHOUSE GAS MANAGEMENT

Bylaw 8599
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ISSUE:

According to the United Nations, “climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time”, and it is caused by increased concentrations of greenhouse gases (or GHG) in the Earth’s atmosphere, which lead to an increase in the Earth’s surface temperature. Impacts may include sea level rise, increased storm events, heat waves, drought, decreases in global food production and severe weather conditions. The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Richmond is an important step in the transition to a more sustainable and livable community. As well, the Province requires all local governments in BC to include greenhouse gas reduction targets, and supporting policies and actions, in their official community plans by May 31, 2010.

To address this issue, the following objective and policies are established.

OBJECTIVE 1:

To reduce community greenhouse gas emissions within the City’s ability (e.g., authority, affordability).

POLICIES:

The City will be guided by the following policies with respect to GHG reduction:

- a) Principles
 - Partnerships (e.g., jurisdictional collaboration, cost sharing, information);
 - Scientific (e.g., actions will be based on science, analysis);
 - Effectiveness (e.g., help achieve community-wide GHG reductions);
 - Efficiency (e.g., based on triple bottom line [i.e., social, economic, environmental] considerations);
 - Phasing (e.g., City policies and actions are to be incremental to reflect the evolution of GHG reduction best practice, science, models, studies, related supportive investments by senior levels of government and the City’s ability to pay).



b) GHG Reduction Targets

The community-wide targets will be to reduce GHG emissions by:

- 1) 33% below 2007 levels by 2020; and
- 2) 80% below 2007 levels by 2050;

subject to the understanding that the Province and other jurisdictions will undertake necessary GHG reduction improvements within their jurisdictions, and the City will receive the necessary assistance from the Province and other jurisdictions to achieve these targets.

c) Actions

- Implement Existing GHG Reduction Related Policies

The City will continue to implement its existing GHG related policies (e.g., the City's Sustainability Framework, Official Community Plan [e.g. compact land use patterns, complete communities]; City Centre Area Plan [e.g., densification, high density urban villages, Transit Oriented Development, district energy initiatives]; and transportation demand management policies);

- Establish New GHG Reduction Related Policies

The City will undertake and prepare, where triple bottom line (i.e., social, economic, environmental) analyses shows positive benefits, new, appropriate and effective GHG reduction related policies (e.g., incentives for improved energy performance levels within existing [retrofit] and new buildings; the increased use of transit; a greater diversion of solid waste through increased recycling and material reuse; improved waste energy capture). One such action is that the City intends to complete its already initiated, comprehensive Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) in 2011;

- Request Increased Provincial Assistance

As many of the Richmond community's GHG reduction targets and actions (e.g., improved building energy efficiencies, reduced emissions from vehicles, the increased reliance on walking, cycling and transit), require Provincial legislation, policy, program and funding assistance, the City will request the Province to:

- Improve its studies, inventories, legislation, policies, programs and funding to assist Richmond and BC local governments, to maximize GHG reductions;



- Substantially increase its policy and funding support for transportation improvements in Richmond, including extending the Canada Line and/or, providing ground level light rail transit (LRT), improving bus service, and improving cycling infrastructure;
 - Establish a grant, rebate and/or low interest loan program to assist property owners to retrofit their buildings to reduce GHG emissions;
 - Establish a grant, rebate and/or low interest loan program to help with the initial extra owner capital cost incurred to reduce GHG emissions in their new buildings;
 - Increase commercial recycling.
- d) Also, the City will request the Province to evaluate, after May 31, 2010, all approved (and any not approved) OCP GHG targets, actions and policies established by local governments in BC, with the objectives of assessing progress, sharing the results with local governments and others, seeking their feedback and identifying areas for improved and additional Provincial GHG programming and funding in 2011 and beyond;
- d) Request Increased Federal and Other Assistance
- To achieve the Richmond community's GHG reduction targets, the City will request improved Federal government and other assistance (e.g., studies, inventories, legislation, policies, programs, funding), as necessary;