



DISTRICT OF

Stewart

## 2016 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN REPORT

On November 2, 2016 the District of Stewart signed the B.C. Climate Action Charter becoming one of over 180 local governments across B.C. who have partnered with the Province of B.C. and the Union of BC Municipalities to find ways to tackle the challenges posed by climate change, pledging to take action to significantly cut both corporate and community-wide greenhouse gas emissions.

Respecting and protecting the environment continues to be a vital part of the vision for Stewart's future and forms a significant element of the Official Community Plan in areas of land use planning and community development.

### What is the Climate Action Charter?

The Province and local governments share a common understanding that:

- increased emissions of human caused greenhouse gases (GHG), including carbon dioxide, methane and other GHG emissions, that are released into the atmosphere are affecting the Earth's climate;
- the evidence of global warming is unequivocal and the effects of climate change are evident across British Columbia;
- reducing GHG emissions will generate environmental and health benefits for individuals, families, and communities;
- climate change and reducing GHG emissions are issues of importance to British Columbians;
- governments urgently need to implement effective measures to reduce GHG emissions and anticipate and prepare for climate change impacts;
- protecting the environment can be done in ways that promote economic prosperity; and
- it is important to take action and to work together to share best practices, to reduce GHG emissions and address the impacts of climate change.

## A Common Goal...

The parties share the common goals of:

- Fostering co-operative inter-governmental relations;
- aiming to reduce GHG emissions, including both their own and those created by others;
- removing legislative, regulatory, policy, or other barriers to taking action on climate change;
- implementing programs, policies, or legislative actions, within their respective jurisdictions, that facilitate reduced GHG emissions, where appropriate;
- encouraging communities that are complete and compact and socially responsive; and
- encouraging infrastructure and a built environment that supports the economic and social needs of the community while minimizing its environmental impact.



*The District of Stewart has agreed to develop strategies and take actions to achieve these goals.*

**The Province and the UBCM will support local governments in pursuing these goals.**

### **Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP)**

CARIP is a conditional grant program that provides funding to BC Climate Action Charter signatories equivalent to one hundred percent of the carbon taxes they pay directly. This funding supports local governments in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move forward on achieving their Charter goals.

In 2016 the District of Stewart used over 69,000 litres of fuel for operating equipment and heating buildings. The carbon tax paid in 2016 that will be reimbursed as a grant is \$4,432.

## 2016 Achievements

### **Community:**

- planning towards closure of the landfill and construction of the transfer station to reduce solid waste
- support for Bordertown Recycling Society and encourage recycling including free pick up of cardboard from businesses and recycling bins for bottles and cans at public facilities
- improvements in parks and trail systems funded through the Conservancy Reserve
- new well drilled to improve water supply with backup generator

### **District Operations:**

- started assessment of District buildings to identify improvements needed to reduce energy costs
- mechanical review of equipment to ensure operating efficiently

## 2017 Goals

The primary goal for 2017 will be to implement a Climate Action Plan Committee to advise Council on specific strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and set a realistic goal for becoming a carbon neutral community.

**For more information on the Climate Action Charter visit our website [www.districtofstewart.com](http://www.districtofstewart.com) or <http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/greencommunities/>**

