

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Re: The British Columbia Climate Change Charter

THAT Council support the British Columbia Climate Change Charter and agree to sign on to it.

BACKGROUND:

Council recently (August 20, 2007) directed staff to pursue a number of actions which would help achieve the goals outlined in the Charter. The intentions of the Charter are generally speaking consistent with the direction that the City is taking on “sustainability”, and Council should be aware of potential overlapping objectives and authorities.

The City of Kelowna is, in fact, already participating in a number of initiatives with the same general aim as the Charter (e.g. Partners for Climate Protection, and B.C. Climate Exchange. Additional work would likely be required to enable the City to fully deliver on the Charter commitments. Signing of the Charter would (in a non-legally binding fashion) commit the City to “become carbon neutral in our operations by 2012; to measure and report on our community’s GHG emissions profile and to create complete, compact, more energy efficient communities.” It is not totally clear what would be involved in achieving “carbon neutrality”. The Charter states that signatories to the Charter would work together to “develop a common approach to determine carbon neutrality for the purposes of this Charter”. It would be helpful if external (e.g. provincial) resources were available to assist with any “new” work that the participating local governments would be committing themselves to. In terms of implementation, staff foresee that achieving carbon neutrality may require financial and legislative support from the Province.

Date: September 13, 2007

File: 0550-01

URGENT
8 pages

TO: Mayor and Council
Chair and Regional Boards

CC: Chief Administrative Officers and Corporate Administrators

FROM: Brenda Binnie, UBCM President

DATE: September 6, 2007

RE: **THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CLIMATE ACTION CHARTER**



UNION OF
BRITISH
COLUMBIA
MUNICIPALITIES

Suite 60
10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond
British Columbia
Canada V6X 2W9
604.270.8226
Fax 604.270.9116
ubcm@civicnet.bc.ca

I am writing to provide you a briefing on discussions that we have had with the provincial government in the last eight weeks and opportunities to signal a joint local-provincial commitment to climate change and greenhouse gas reduction at the 2007 UBCM Convention.

The UBCM Executive met with the Premier in early July. He outlined the provincial government's commitments to address climate change and support development of green communities. He specifically stated the provincial government's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2010 and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33% by 2020.

I had the opportunity to outline some of the commitments or actions already made by local governments.

We discussed the opportunity to advance the climate change and green communities agenda by working together.

Out of that discussion emerged the concept of a joint Climate Action Charter.

We profiled this proposal on Page 1 of the August Newsletter.

UBCM POLICY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTION

Your Executive took basic direction in developing the Climate Action Charter from the previous resolutions of UBCM Conventions. As early as 1991, UBCM has considered and endorsed resolutions that recognized the need to reduce greenhouse gases. We have prepared a synopsis of past resolutions and it and a full digest of resolutions is available on CivicNet at: www.civicnet.bc.ca/FeaturedPolicyTopics/ClimateChange. We will consider nine resolutions at the 2007 Convention specific to Climate Change.

In our presentation to the Premier, UBCM outlined the many initiatives that local government has undertaken to address climate change. Our digest can also be found on CivicNet.

CLIMATE ACTION CHARTER

We have completed jointly drafting with the Province The BC Climate Action Charter and have enclosed a copy for your consideration.

The parties are:

- Province of British Columbia
- UBCM
- Signatory Local Governments - those who advise us they would like to sign on

The UBCM Executive has reviewed it, and based on an already endorsed policy, the Executive has recommended support for UBCM signing the document.

In fact, we have already begun to pursue the opportunities in the Charter by suggesting to the provincial government some legislative changes that would support climate change. Earlier this month our Executive Director wrote to all the Chief Administrative Officers seeking any input on legislation changes.

The proposal at Convention is to provide the opportunity for all interested local governments to show their commitment to the goals and other aspects of the Charter by "signing on".

We envision Mayors and Chairs being invited to signal their council or board's acceptance of this Charter on behalf of their local governments. The format also allows you to include at your discretion an Addendum to the Charter that lists your accomplishments and additional undertakings. (note the sample Addendum is simply illustrative of what you could develop.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CONSIDERATION OF THE CHARTER

We acknowledge that the notice of the opportunity to consider and sign on to the Climate Action Charter is short.

However, the nature of the local government commitment has been structured so as to facilitate expeditious consideration by your council or board. For instance, this is not a legal agreement. Question and answer material is also available on CivicNet.

Some may ask about the other provincial commitments - such as funding and support. These have been discussed but responses are more likely to come in the form of responses to UBCM resolutions or in the form of announcements during the Convention.

We hope that you will have an opportunity to consider this matter and if you agree to "sign-on", please notify the office as soon as possible to arrange your participation at the Convention. If you have any questions please call Richard Taylor (604.270.8226 ext. 105) or Jared Wright (ext. 113) or rtaylor@civicnet.bc.ca.

Attachment: The BC Climate Action Charter

780:25:Climate Change Action Charters Memo

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CLIMATE ACTION CHARTER
BETWEEN
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (THE PROVINCE)
AND
THE UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES (UBCM)
AND
SIGNATORY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
(THE PARTIES)

(1) The Parties share the common understanding that:

- (a) Scientific consensus has developed that increasing 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;
- (b) the evidence of global warming is unequivocal and the effects of climate change are evident across British Columbia;
- (c) reducing GHG emissions will generate environmental and health benefits for individuals, families, and communities;
- (d) climate change and reducing GHG emissions are issues of importance to British Columbians;
- (e) governments urgently need to implement effective measures to reduce GHG emissions and anticipate and prepare for climate change impacts;
- (f) protecting the environment can be done in ways that promote economic prosperity; and
- (g) 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.

(2) The Parties acknowledge that each has an important role in addressing climate change and that:

- (a) The Province has taken action on climate change, including commitments made in the 2007 Speech from the Throne, the BC Energy Plan, and the Western Climate Initiative on climate change;
- (b) Local Governments have taken action on climate change, including planning livable, sustainable communities, encouraging green developments and transit oriented developments, and implementing innovative infrastructure technologies including landfill gas recapture and production of clean energy; and

- (c) these actions create the foundation for the Parties to be leaders in affecting climate change.

(3) This Charter acknowledges that:

- (a) The interrelationship between each Order of Government's respective jurisdictions and accountabilities with respect to communities, and activities related to and within communities, creates both a need and an opportunity to work collaboratively on climate change initiatives;
- (b) both Orders of Government have recognized a need for action, both see that the circumstances represent a Climate for Change in British Columbia, and both are responding; and
- (c) the actions of each of the Parties towards climate change will be more successful if undertaken jointly with other Parties.

(4) The Parties share the common goals of:

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

(5) In order to contribute to reducing GHG emissions:

- (a) Signatory Local Governments agree to develop strategies and take actions to achieve the following goals:
 - (i) being carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2012, recognizing that solid waste facilities regulated under *the Environmental Management Act* are not included in operations for the purposes of this Charter.
 - (ii) measuring and reporting on their community's GHG emissions profile; and
 - (iii) creating complete, compact, more energy efficient rural and urban communities (e.g. foster a built environment that supports a reduction in car dependency and

energy use, establish policies and processes that support fast tracking of green development projects, adopt zoning practices that encourage land use patterns that increase density and reduce sprawl.)

(b) The Province and the UBCM will support local governments in pursuing these goals, including developing options and actions for local governments to be carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2012.

(6) The Parties agree that this commitment to working together towards reducing GHG emissions will be implemented through establishing a Joint Provincial-UBCM Green Communities Committee and Green Communities Working Groups that support that Committee, with the following purposes:

- (a) To develop a range of actions that can affect climate change, including initiatives such as: assessment, taxation, zoning or other regulatory reforms or incentives to encourage land use patterns that promote increased density, smaller lot sizes, encourage mixed uses and reduced GHG emissions; development of GHG reduction targets and strategies, alternative transportation opportunities, policies and processes that support fast-tracking of green development projects, community gardens and urban forestry; and integrated transportation and land use planning;
- (b) to build local government capacity to plan and implement climate change initiatives;
- (c) to support local government in taking actions on becoming carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2012, including developing a common approach to determine carbon neutrality for the purposes of this Charter, identifying carbon neutral strategies and actions appropriate for the range of communities in British Columbia and becoming reporting entities under the Climate Registry; and,
- (d) to share information and explore additional opportunities to support climate change activities, through enhanced collaboration amongst the Parties, and through encouraging and promoting climate change initiatives of individuals and businesses within communities.

- (7) Once a common approach to carbon neutrality is developed under section (6)(c), Signatory Local Governments will implement their commitment in 5 (a) (i).
- (8) To recognize and support the GHG emission reduction initiatives and the climate change goals outlined in this Charter, Signatory Local Governments are invited by the other Parties to include a statement of their initiatives and commitments as an appendix to this Charter.
- (9) This Charter is not intended to be legally binding or impose legal obligations on any Party and will have no legal effect.

Page 4

SIGNED on behalf of the PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA by:

The Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia

Date: September 26, 2007

The Honourable Ida Chong Minister
of Community Service and Minister
Responsible for Senior's and
Women's Issues

Date: September 26, 2007

SIGNED on behalf of the UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES by:

Councillor Brenda Binnie and
President of the Union of British
Columbia Municipalities

Date: September 26, 2007

SIGNED on behalf of the SIGNATORY LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

(NAME OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

by:

Mayor/Chair

Date _____

Appendix
GHG reduction initiatives or commitments of Signatory Local Government

Note: Local Governments that choose to become Signatories may also choose to provide a statement of their individual commitments in a customized addendum to the main body of the Charter. Below is a sample version of the proposed addendum

SAMPLE

Addendum to
The British Columbia Climate Change Action Charter

For

[Name of Local Government]

is committed to

1. Implementing existing plans

Local Governments could list here plans they have developed and are in the process of implementing; for example:

- Community energy plan
- Greenhouse gas emissions inventory
- Official Community Plan – Smart Growth
- Community Action on Energy Efficiency Initiative (CAEE)
- Partners for Climate Protection, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- District Energy System
- Eco-Industrial Project
- Transit Oriented Development Plan
- Landfill Gas Utilization

2. Continue to pursue activities

Local Governments could list here recent projects they have implemented; for example:

- Bio-diesel fleet vehicle conversion
- E3 Fleet Program
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy
- Carbon Neutral Municipal Operations
- Organics Recovery
- Recycling and waste management plan

- Greenhouse gas local action plan
- Energy Efficient Municipal Operations
- Employee car-pooling
- Air quality planning

3. Preparing new plans, bylaws, policies, etc.

Local Governments could list here plans, bylaws, policies they are committed to develop; for example:

- Plan for being carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2012
- Anti-idling bylaw
- Green Buildings BC for Local Governments
- Smart Growth Development Checklist
- Green Building Program – Built Green and LEED standards
- Micro-generation projects (hydro, wind power, etc)
- Sustainable Community Servicing Plan
- Green Roof Policy
- Greywater recycling policy and standards
- Pedestrian and transit friendly community design
- Local Purchasing Policy
- Streamlined Green Building Application Process