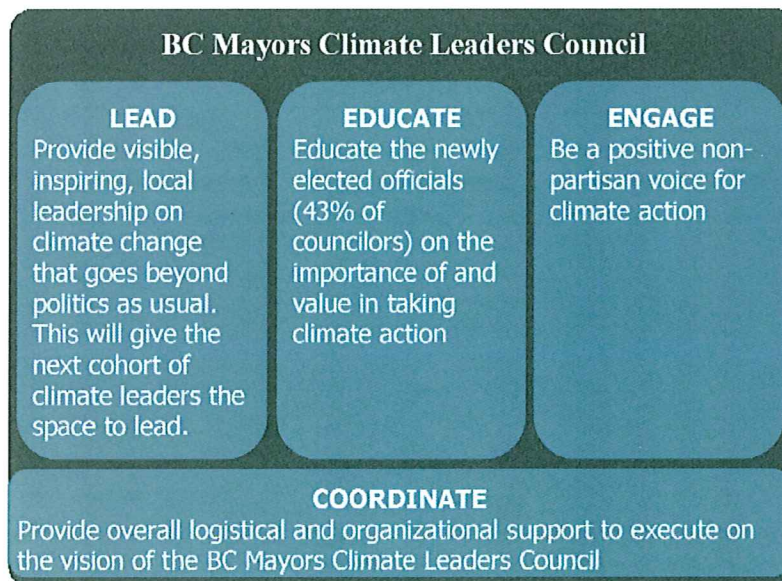


BC Mayors Climate Leadership Council

Implementing the Vision

On September 28, 2009, nine BC Mayors (or their representatives) got together over breakfast to discuss the concept of a BC Mayors Climate Leaders Council. Each of these mayors represents a community that is demonstrating exceptional leadership on climate action.

The discussion at this inaugural meeting was positive, with many points of consensus. Three action areas were clearly identified. These areas are outlined in the diagram below, along with a fourth action area – that of coordination to support action in the other three areas.



Based on the dialogue that was captured during the 90-minute breakfast discussion (pp. 4-8 of this document), the Community Energy Association has developed several implementation recommendations for your review and comment.

Please review the recommendations and provide comments by e-mail to dlittlejohn@communityenergy.bc.ca or by calling 604-628-7076. In your review, please answer the following two questions: *Do we have it right regarding the membership recommendations on page 2 of this document? Are you comfortable with the name: BC Mayors Climate Leadership Council?*

We will schedule a 60-minute conference call in May / June 2010 and would like to receive your feedback on this draft document in advance so that we can distribute a revised version prior to the call. We will be in touch in late April regarding scheduling for this call.

Topic - Membership**Points of Consensus**

- Membership by mayors who will support and mentor other mayors, councilors, regional directors
- Limited to 'leaders' – there should be a minimum standard for membership
- Limited in size to keep it manageable (specific number not defined)

Implementation Recommendation (for review)

- The minimum standard for participation in the Mayor's Climate Leadership Council is achieving the following three milestones: (1) community must be a Climate Action Charter signatory; (2) community has a GHG emissions reduction target identified in their OCP; and, (3) community has either won or received an honourable mention in CEA's annual Energy & Climate Action Awards or equivalent recognition in any of the previous five years.
- Participants in the Mayor's Leadership Council would initially be drawn from those communities that are active members in the Community Energy Association (CEA). This would assist in providing a source of funding for coordination activities that will be required / determined by the Leadership Council.
- There should be an attempt to ensure a geographically equitable distribution of participants from BC (at least one of each region of the province), and equity in terms of size of community represented (diversity of participants)
- Maximum number of members does not have to be finalized yet, however keeping the group to no more than 20 might be a reasonable goal

Topic – Visible Leadership**Points of Consensus**

- Providing leading examples of climate action is critical to give emerging climate leaders the political space to move forward
- Visible leadership is also required for effective engagement on the climate issue

Implementation Recommendation (for review)

- As leaders, the Council deemed that there should be shared commitment to set a vision and mobilize action to achieve energy and climate action targets. This shared commitment for strong leadership also recognizes that each community will set the context and the targets to be achieved. While recognizing the uniqueness of each community, consideration could be given to identifying actions that the Mayor's Climate Leadership Council is jointly committed to.
- A simple communications strategy should be developed to profile the leadership that is occurring within participating communities.
- CEA can assist with increasing visibility through developing short case-studies of each community and profiling these at presentations that CEA

frequently delivers across BC. CEA can also include a slide in every presentation identifying the mayors and communities that are participating in the BC Mayors Climate Leaders Council.

Topic – Educating Newly Elected Officials

Points of Consensus

- With 43% of local elected officials being in their first term, there are many that were not involved in the climate action discussions over the last several years, including signing of the Climate Action Charter.
- It would be useful to reinforce BC's climate action objectives with these newly elected officials.

Implementation Recommendation (for review)

- Identify the most appropriate person to contact LGLA to ensure that climate action is incorporated into training of newly elected officials, and that BC Mayors Climate Leaders Council delivers elements of this training.
- Participating mayors, with organizational support from CEA, to produce a full-day climate action workshop for elected officials the day prior to Regional Association meetings (i.e., LMLGA, AVICC, NCMA, AKBLG, SILGA).
- Participating mayors, with organizational support from CEA, to produce a training and networking event at the 2010 UBCM conference bringing together elected officials who want to move climate action forward in council chambers
- Consider a webinar for elected officials with participating mayors relating stories of how they were able to move climate action forward with their councils.

Topic – Engagement

Points of Consensus

- Providing a strong, credible, non-partisan voice promoting climate action has great value. There is already an example of BC mayors signing a letter organized by the Suzuki Foundation in the Globe & Mail during the last provincial election, calling for all parties to stop making climate action a partisan issue.

Implementation Recommendation (for review)

- Through consensus discussion, establish guidelines on the types of issues that the BC Mayors Climate Leaders Council will engage on
- Establish simple communications guidelines to relay a coherent and consistent message.

Proposed first year scope of activities

The following outlines three proposed activities for the Council during the initial 12 months of operation, from June 2010 to June 2011. Each of these activities falls under the three core themes of **Leadership, Education and Engagement**. Also included is an estimate of the cost to deliver each of these activities during this time period, to be cost recovered from membership fees in the Council.

ACTIVITY THEME (first 12 months)	SCOPE DESCRIPTION	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT
Leadership	UBCM Meeting (annual convention): consensus support on policy	\$5,000
Education	Presentations at Area Association meetings or full/part-day pre-AGM workshops with Mayors profiled and/or presenting (similar to LMLGA 2008 workshop)	\$15,000
Engagement	Annual Roundtable (or webinar?) on best practices	\$5,000

Next Steps

Please:

1. Review the recommendations and provide comments by e-mail to dlittlejohn@communityenergy.bc.ca or by calling 604-628-7076.
2. Participate, if possible, in a 60-minute conference call to be scheduled for May / June 2010.

Minutes from inaugural meeting of BC Mayor's Climate Leadership Council

Date: September 28, 2009 7:00am - 8:30am

Location: Heron's Restaurant, Vancouver

Attendees:

Mayor Dan Rogers - Prince George
Mayor Sharon Shepherd - Kelowna
Mayor Ken Melamed – Whistler
Mayor Mike Bernier - Dawson Creek
Mayor Lawrence Chernoff – Castlegar
Mayor Richard Walton – District of North Vancouver
Richard White (for Mayor Mussatto) - City of North Vancouver
Andrea Reimer (for Mayor Robertson) – City of Vancouver
Councillor Roland Stanke representing UBCM
Norm Connolly, Community Energy Association
Dale Littlejohn, Community Energy Association

Themes Emerging from Dialogue

There is an opportunity for this group to:

- Provide visible, inspiring, local leadership on climate change that goes beyond politics as usual. This will give the next cohort of climate leaders the space to lead.
- Educate the newly elected officials (43% of councilors) on the importance of and value in taking climate action
- Be a positive non-partisan voice for climate action

We collectively must define what 'this group' is including what work we wish to accomplish collectively, how we accomplish it, how we invite others to the group and if there are any bars to clear for entry. There appeared to be consensus that this should be a group of leaders, not everyone.

Decisions

There was energy to move forward together in some fashion.

Andrea Reimer will circulate the letter that she is drafting for Gregor Robertson to send to the federal government regarding the upcoming Copenhagen climate negotiations.

Executive Team – Ken Melamed, Dan Rogers, Richard Walton, and Lawrence Chernoff volunteered to be part of the executive that will work with CEA staff to define the terms of reference for the group. Andrea Reimer noted that she would be interested in being on the executive, but only after October 20.

Opening Remarks:

Mayor Rogers – opened with a welcome to those attending breakfast, on behalf of the Community Energy Association, and in his capacity of Mayor of Prince George. Dan provided an overview of the intention of the breakfast conversation.

Councillor Reimer (representing Mayor Gregor Robertson) – noted that the City of Vancouver (CoV) has a team (*Greenest City Action Team*) that is actively working on strategies and policies to green the city (full engagement by Council and staff).

Mayor Sheppard – sits on the *Citizen’s Conservation Council* for the Okanagan, and is actively involved in supporting her staff (and fellow Councillors) in promoting initiatives in sustainability

Mayor Bernier – is active in the QUEST-BC initiative. He commented that getting the community on-side is critical in advancing sustainable energy and climate action policies, programs and initiatives. Public engagement and political support go hand-in-hand.

UBCM Representative (Councillor Roland Stanke) – representing UBCM President Robert Hobson, Roland is a councillor from Clinton. He remarked that the challenge is having small-town and rural people understand that they actually *can* make a difference, and that sustainable energy / climate action can yield numerous positive outcomes (economic and social) for small communities. If you can move beyond the fact that small communities feel under-resourced and new initiatives can sometimes trigger push-back from some local residents, green initiatives can garner great support at the local level.

Mayor Walton – comes from an education perspective, and realizes how important it is to have initiatives where the community can build capacity and learn through discovering collective solutions to a problem / challenge. He noted that shifting local government policy is necessary. Showcasing best practices is key in changing behaviours and opening minds to new possibilities. He also noted that communities, large and small, can show (and have shown) tremendous leadership at a local level.

Mayor Chernoff – his latest initiative entails installing water meters throughout the city, as a means of becoming a Water Smart community. He noted that Castlegar residents are very supportive of local green initiatives.

Mayor Melamed - remarked that we need to move beyond the “economy versus environment” paradigm, and sees the two as strongly linked. He noted that Whistler (RMOW) will be carbon neutral in its operations by 2010, two years ahead of schedule – a ‘stretch goal’ for his community. He also mentioned that they are planning an \$800K green retrofit of the community recreating centre, and have developed a green building checklist for new development.

Roundtable Discussion:

Mayor Walton – DNV is currently doing an OCP review. He suggested that an OCP review is a great opportunity for focusing the community on climate change – a good excuse to engage local residents on this topic.

Mayor Chernoff – suggests that taking a regional approach is a good strategy to problem solve and engage the broader community. This has worked well with the *Carbon Neutral Kootenays* project.

UBCM Representative (Councillor Roland Stanke) – noted that 43% of councillors are new, and that this may be a good place to start re: education, building awareness of energy sustainability and climate action, and raising the profile of innovative practices already underway throughout BC.

Mayor Bernier – small communities *can* be leaders in this area. We just need to show the tremendous value these projects bring to local communities.

Mayor Melamed - noted that this mayor's initiative (Climate Action Leaders Caucus) may need Council support for each of the members of the coalition. However, full support would send a powerful and positive message to move forward.

Mayor Walton – we need to show an integrated approach to addressing climate change. He feels the public generally does not see a link between the carbon tax and economic mechanisms for creating a market for low-carbon technologies and energy retrofits. He feels that this Mayor's Climate Action Caucus could be a policy "sounding board" for the Province.

Mayor Melamed – supports the policy that carbon should be priced, and that pricing carbon is necessary to influence market behaviour.

Richard White (Director of Community Services, City of North Vancouver) – communicating these linkages is key: carbon pricing, the economy and green energy initiatives

Mayor Sheppard – is supportive of a collaborative approach between elected officials and local government jurisdictions. She mentioned that key mayors came together to jointly raise political awareness of the pine beetle issue, and that this unified voice had positive affects in getting political and media attention.

Mayor Chernoff – agreed that regional collaboration is key to building regional capacity and has particular benefits for smaller local governments.

Mayor Bernier – acknowledges the value of the "knowledge side" of the equation, for local governments developing strategies for climate action and in understanding what it means for their community. Dawson Creek conducted a number of studies; first to determine their carbon footprint, and then to develop appropriate strategies

to reduce their footprint. This knowledge provided the “ammunition” for elected officials and other local leaders to have a progressive conversation with local residents / business.

Richard White – stated that having a straightforward discussion with the more conservative members of your community can be beneficial. It focuses one on the need to develop a strong business case for climate action – in a nutshell, “...we can’t afford not to become carbon neutral.”

Mayor Melamed – stated that climate action *is* an economic strategy. It is a framework for local economic diversification and job creation. It can make your community more competitive in the long term, and can attract talented people to locate in your community.

Councillor Reimer – noted that municipalities are key to having a big impact (collectively) on GHG reduction in BC, but are also resource-constrained at the same time, echoing Councillor Stanke’s comments. She noted that from a big city perspective, transportation and land use policies need to be integrated at a regional level, and this is sometimes challenging to do in the Lower Mainland.

Mayor Walton – local citizens need a message of hope, and this message should also provide awareness of tools and strategies for action.

Mayor Sheppard – stated that young people already “get it” regarding the need to green the economy and take action on climate change. They are ready to be part of the solution if given an opportunity.

Mayor Melamed - advised providing the true costs (lifecycle, TBL) when talking about the investment required on climate action.

Councillor Reimer – suggested that support for climate action can be found almost everywhere, in communities large and small.

Mayor Sheppard – suggested that the group form a Climate Leaders Caucus, with a call to other local elected officials to join – extend the invite in other words. Even if the caucus simply provides information about innovative practices and effective strategies, this would be a tremendous help.

Mayor Walton – offered that this group could meet at periodic FCM meetings as well as Local Government Association meetings (four times per year). Recommended that caucus members should meet face-to-face at these meetings, as e-mail and telephone may be less effective at engaging caucus members (at least initially).

Mayor Chernoff – agrees that a core group is needed to move the initiative forward, and supports Mayor Walton’s suggestion of meeting four times per year.

Richard White – suggested that one of the roles for the caucus could be to assist the Province with climate action policy.

Mayor Melamed - is not sure about the caucus providing advice to the Province on climate action, but rather should focus on getting local governments in BC on-side with regard to climate action.

Mayor Walton – advised that this group should actually do some advocacy, as this would benefit everyone involved.

Councillor Reimer – cautioned that the Province does not need technical advice, but rather political advice in how to move forward on climate action.

Mayor Sheppard – noted that is a good thing to have a Provincial ministry focused on climate action, Minister John Yap.

Dale Littlejohn (CEA) – asked the team if regional municipal associations would be a good venue for our climate leader's caucus.

Mayor Bernier – agreed that working with the regional municipal associations is a good strategy.

Richard White – suggested that this group expand to include other key municipal leaders in climate action.

Mayor Sheppard – suggested that the group issue a press release about the Climate Action Leader's first meeting. The breakfast group agreed to establish an oversight subcommittee on this (going forward), consisting of Mayor Shepard, Mayor Melamed and Richard White).

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 AM

BC Mayors Climate Leadership Council

Background

Local elected officials including mayors, councilors, and regional directors across the province have new responsibilities to oversee climate action in their own operations and throughout their communities. Some communities are leading, some are struggling, but most are just starting.

Currently, there are limited opportunities for elected officials to formally recognize and celebrate success in climate action. In addition, there are few opportunities for communities to benefit from the experience of those who are leading.

The last two provincial elections positioned climate action as a priority for the current government. But without a constituency of motivated local elected leaders, real progress on this issue could be delayed.

The Green Communities Committee of the Province and UBCM is composed primarily of staff. There is no equivalent for elected officials. New elected officials could benefit from mentoring and inspiration from successful climate leaders.

Opportunity

There is value in a group of leading elected officials working together to:

- Inspire climate action across the province
- Support and enhance the leadership shown by the Province of BC and UBCM
- Recognize climate leadership
- Connect and learn from each other

The Community Energy Association (CEA) is willing to foster this idea as it emerges. The CEA is a non-profit collaboration of UBCM, governments, energy and transit providers, and professional associations. CEA builds capacity in local governments on climate action and accelerates action.

Invitation

As a recognized leader in the field of climate action, we invite you to participate in a **breakfast dialogue** of a select group of 'founding leaders' to determine if there is value in an initiative like this and how best to maximize that value to local elected officials across the province.

DATE: Monday, September 28, 2009

TIME: 7:00am – 8:30am

LOCATION: Private room in Heron's restaurant in the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel across the street from Canada Place where the UBCM convention will be held.

PROPOSED AGENDA:

Introductions

Background

Dialogue Questions :

- Is now the right time to establish a climate leader's caucus?
- How could a climate leader's caucus best serve local elected officials?
- What next steps should we pursue to move this forward?
- What role would you like to have