

CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Community Safety Committee **DATE:** May 3, 2001
FROM: Suzanne Bycraft **FILE:** 6125-01
Manager, Emergency & Environmental Programs
RE: Environmental Management Strategy – Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program

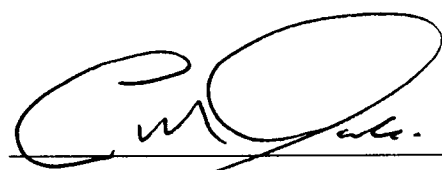
STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the City of Richmond participate in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program as a component of the City's Environmental Management Strategy.
2. That a letter be written to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities advising of Richmond's participation in the program.



Suzanne Bycraft
Manager, Emergency and Environmental Programs

Att. 2

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Director, Engineering	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Manager, Policy and Planning	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Director, Parks	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Director, Public Works	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Manager, Transportation	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide an update on the development of an Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) for the City of Richmond – *No action is required.*; and
- Recommend that Council participate in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Partners of Climate Protection Program (PCP) as an initiative in support of the EMS – *Action is recommended.*

ANALYSIS

Part 1: The Environmental Management Strategy (EMS)

EMS Purpose

An environmental services review conducted during 1999 found that as a result of the amalgamation of the City's former Environmental Health Department with the regional health board, the City's approach to environmental issues had become uncoordinated, responsibilities were not clearly defined, and an overall sense of priority and direction with respect to environmental issues was lacking. To address this issue, the development of an overall City environmental management strategy was recommended to establish a clear focus and direction for City environmental issues and priorities.

The purpose of the EMS is to support the City's corporate vision by co-ordinating and improving environmental management concepts (e.g., sustainability, green communities, environmental protection) across City departments ("well-managed") and ensuring that a sustainable environment (e.g., clean air, clean water, availability of green space, etc.) exists for Richmond's residents, now and in the future ("livable and appealing").

Given the interdependent web of ecological systems and human activities, it is increasingly difficult to address environmental issues in isolation. The guiding premise of the proposed Environmental Management Strategy is to strengthen the environmental management of the City of Richmond by co-ordinating departmental activities through the development of:

1. Overall guiding concepts, goals, objectives and policies which are supported by Council and the Richmond community;
2. A management system that better co-ordinates environmental initiatives and is more responsive to change (e.g., new information, changes in community values or priorities, new legislation, evolving concepts, performance results, etc.); and
3. An action plan that identifies environmental concerns of priority to ensure that future resources are targeted toward those issues most likely to yield the greatest benefit to the Richmond community.

It is anticipated that existing City initiatives will be co-ordinated according to their relationship to specific environmental components – Water, Air, Land, Vegetation and Wildlife, and Energy. The proposed EMS will be developed to be adaptive and responsive to change.

Council will be a key player in the development process of the EMS in addition to staff members from across City departments. The EMS will also be developed in partnership with ACE, the broader Richmond community and other appropriate government agencies (e.g., health, regional, provincial and federal). It is anticipated that with the amount of consultation required, both internally and with the Richmond community, a 20-month time period will be required to develop the EMS.

EMS Progress To-Date

A number of steps have been made through the efforts of staff in various departments. Specific actions include:

1. The establishment of a City Staff Environmental Co-ordination Committee. This committee was established to enhance communication among City departments with environmental responsibilities and to assist with the co-ordinated resolution of environment related issues. This committee will also oversee the preparation and implementation of the EMS.
2. The identification of an EMS sub-committee which is responsible for drafting the EMS.
3. Secured funding in the amount of \$35,000 from the Green Communities Initiative (Ministry of Community Development, Co-operatives and Volunteers) to support the preparation of the EMS.
4. Prepared a proposed work plan to initiate discussion with the EMS sub-committee (see Att. 1).

Staff will report back to Council at key stages of the development process for guidance and input on overall direction.

Part 2: The Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP)

PCP Background

One of the central areas of interest of the EMS is energy management. Accordingly, the Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP) provides a timely opportunity for the City to adopt an already established mechanism by which to co-ordinate existing City initiatives related to energy management and greenhouse gas emissions and to benefit from the resources provided by the program to facilitate this activity.

The PCP Program is a joint effort of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). The Program was developed to assist Canadian municipalities in reducing local greenhouse gas emissions by making energy improvements. Assistance is provided by the program in the form of professional expertise and data management (i.e., data collection and analysis).

The Program consists of the following milestones:

- Step 1: Energy data collection and emissions inventory

- Community information (e.g., residential and commercial buildings)
 - Municipal information (e.g., fleet, buildings, ornamental and street lights, solid waste)
- Step 2: Establish emission reduction targets (set by the municipality)
- Step 3: Develop local action plan
- Step 4: Implement action plan
- Step 5: Monitor, verify and report reductions

The PCP Program has been designed to support local municipalities and can be tailored to fit individual contexts. It is a completely voluntary program in which municipalities can opt out of anytime and while it is encouraged, there is no obligation to report progress.

Rationale for and Benefits of PCP Membership

➤ **Provides Information for Decision-Making and Measuring Performance**

The PCP Program assists staff in assimilating information pertaining to the energy use and greenhouse gas emissions of City operations as well as that of the broader community. It also provides a mechanism for setting benchmarks and measuring performance.

➤ **Recognition of Effort**

The City of Richmond has made a number of significant steps with respect to its energy management. The PCP Program provides an already established mechanism for assembling these initiatives under one umbrella, communicating these efforts to the public and strategizing on next steps for making further improvements.

➤ **Supports the Development of the Environmental Management Strategy (EMS)**

The PCP Program provides a framework for linking existing City initiatives relating to energy management across City departments, and to link these initiatives to a specified unified objective with measurable targets. This integrative approach would serve to address the energy management component of an environmental management strategy.

➤ **Provides Resources and Assists in Realising Energy Savings**

Professional expertise, community inventory data and data management software are provided by the PCP program at no cost to the City. The GVRD has also co-ordinated a Lower Mainland Working Group to facilitate information sharing among PCP member municipalities.

A large component of the program is to assist municipalities in making further advancements in energy management. Such initiatives often result in significant energy savings and thus, lower operating costs.

A number of funding programs, including FCM's Green Municipal Investment Fund (GMIF) and Green Municipal Enabling, are also available to support energy management initiatives. Participation in the PCP Program would likely strengthen City of Richmond applications for these types of funding.

➤ **Fosters Collective Action**

The PCP program is a partnership program that links municipalities across Canada in pursuing a common goal. Most municipalities within the Lower Mainland are members (see Att. 2). The high level involvement of municipalities in the GVRD provides excellent opportunities for information sharing and working as a collective to ensure that the region as a whole will support the liveable communities envisioned in each municipality. The PCP Program is also recognised at the international level.

➤ **Low Cost** (see financial impact)

Implications of Not Participating

A decision not to participate in the PCP Program would result in a lost opportunity for the City to benefit from external resources that are available to support initiatives related to sound energy management. These resources are funded from contributions made by member municipalities, including the City of Richmond.

ACE Comments

ACE members were divided on their opinion of whether the City should participate in the PCP Program. Some members considered the program to be a worthwhile endeavour for the general reasons identified above. However, other members were hesitant to express their support. Their rationale included the following perspectives:

- Greenhouse gas emissions and climate change were not considered to be a local environmental priority in light of actions in the United States;
- It may be difficult for the City of Richmond to perform well due to its projected population growth and consequently, the City may not be perceived favourably at the international level; and
- The PCP Program is a form of unnecessary bureaucracy.

While staff appreciate these issues, it is important to measure what we are doing in order to acknowledge what we have already achieved and identify any further opportunities for improvement. Staff also feel that Richmond's participation will reflect well at the FCM level and will enhance our ability to secure funding for future environmental or sustainability projects.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no cost associated with membership in the Partners for Climate Protection Program or with obtaining the data. Funding for the data collection work is provided by the Greater Vancouver Regional District, on behalf of member municipalities.

Development of an action plan as a result of this process could require some expenditure of funds for external assistance, however, the cost would be minimal and would be accommodated within the Environmental Programs budget.

CONCLUSION

Work on developing a City-wide Environmental Management Strategy has been initiated. The purpose of the EMS is to establish an overall vision of environmental management for the City of Richmond, co-ordinate related activities across City departments and identify areas of priority. The EMS will be developed in consultation with ACE, the Richmond community and appropriate government agencies. The Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program offers a timely opportunity to use external resources to assist the City in addressing one component of the EMS – Energy Management.



Margot Daykin
Environmental Co-ordinator
MMD:

Attachment 1:

Draft Work Program for Preparing an EMS

Major Task	Activities	Deliverable
Establish a Foundation for Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assemble an inter-departmental working committee; ➤ Summarize Richmond's environmental policies, issues, initiatives and management structure; and ➤ Review and assess EMS models in other jurisdictions 	Background Paper
Prepare a Detailed Work Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prepare draft purpose/objectives and guiding principles of EMS; and ➤ Establish process and work program (including identifying opportunities for ACE and community input) 	EMS Development Action Plan
Implement Work Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What needs to be addressed? ➤ How should identified issues be addressed? 	Assessment Report
Finalize EMS	Proposed template: Component 1: Vision and Guiding Concepts Component 2: Policy and Objectives Component 2: Environmental Management System Component 3: Action and Strategies	Draft EMS
		Final EMS
Council Approval of EMS		
Implement EMS		

Attachment 2:

Partners in Climate Protection Membership – Lower Mainland Participants

Anmore
Burnaby
Coquitlam
Delta
Greater Vancouver
Langley Township
Lions Bay
Maple Ridge
New Westminster
North Vancouver (City)
North Vancouver (District)
Pitt Meadows
Port Moody
Surrey
Vancouver
West Vancouver
White Rock