

City of Richmond renewed its Excellence Award as the only municipal Power Smart Leader in 2010

The City of Richmond has been working with BC Hydro Power Smart to shape an energy-efficient tomorrow. On the evening of October 25, 2010, the City of Richmond was recognized as a 2010 Power Smart Leader in the category of Leadership Excellence.

The Power Smart Excellence Awards is an annual event established by BC Hydro to celebrate the outstanding achievements of inspiring individuals and organizations that are working to shape an energy-efficient tomorrow. Each year, BC Hydro recognizes the organizations that have best demonstrated a commitment to energy conservation and practices exemplifying energy management and efficiency.

The Power Smart Excellence Awards honour candidates from a range of categories including Workplace Conservation Leadership, New Construction, New Technology, Conservation Partner and Sustainable Communities. The energy conservation leadership of the finalist organizations yields positive and meaningful change to generations of British Columbians.

"A large part of our clean energy future relies upon wise and efficient use of electricity," said BC Hydro President and COE, David Cobb. "Congratulations to our Power Smart finalists, leaders and winners; more importantly, thank you for helping us build an energy efficient culture in B.C."

All together, the winners announced on October 25 are helping to save more than 70 gigawatt-hours of electricity a year – enough energy to power more than 6,000 homes annually¹. "BC Hydro's business, industrial and commercial customers account for about two thirds of the energy consumed in the province and we are counting on their commitment as we work together toward achieving our provincial target of meeting 66 per cent of the province's future electricity needs through conservation by 2020."

The City of Richmond is one of the 11 Power Smart Leaders in 2010 that has been awarded this designation since 2003. Power Smart Leadership Excellence Award is awarded to organizations for achieving progressively greater levels of energy management and conservation year-over-year and exemplifies what it means to be a true leader in conservation.

Power Smart Leaders clearly demonstrated that they are on a path of continuous improvement. Champions of energy conservation in the province and in their local communities, these organizations continue to break new ground in integrated energy management.

Now in its eighth year, the Power Smart Excellence Awards showcase the best and brightest energy conservation practices amongst BC Hydro customers. The Awards strive to not only recognize BC businesses for their continued efforts toward energy efficiency but to also inspire other businesses to step up and make their own commitments to conservation. The finalists and winners are celebrated not only at the awards evening but also through a province wide online and print advertising campaign.

The City of Richmond received this Award in recognition of many smart energy initiatives undertaken with the highlights being:

- The City has developed a new energy policy to guide corporate conservation initiatives and integrate energy management within the City's sustainability framework.

¹ The City of Richmond has achieved more than 1 GWh in electricity saving through completion of energy retrofit projects in early 2010 (mainly lighting).

- Through BC Hydro's New Construction Program, the Richmond Olympic Oval was designed with stringent energy-efficient lighting standards.
- Energy management has been decentralized to provide more tailored services to all City departments and initiatives.

The City has been facing challenges to maintain the Power Smart Leadership Excellence Award this year. Other municipalities have aggressively pursued energy reduction initiatives. The City requires continuing collaboration from all groups to implement energy reduction projects and other meaningful actions. For example, City of Vancouver and Millennium Development Corporation jointly won the Sustainable Communities award for the Millennium Water development, home of the Olympic Athletes' Village.

BC Hydro has also hosted the City of Richmond's staff at the Power Smart Forum from Oct 25 to 27, 2010 at no cost to the City. The Forum provided seminars and training in energy conservation from delegates, speakers and industry experts across North America.