



To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** February 23, 2015
From: John Irving, P.Eng., MPA **File:** 10-6125-07-03/2015-Vol 01
Director, Engineering
Re: **Final 2013 Corporate Carbon Neutral Emissions**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled, "Final 2013 Corporate Carbon Neutral Emissions," dated February 23, 2015, from the Director of Engineering be received for information.

John Irving, P.Eng. MPA
Director, Engineering
(604-276-4140)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

The City of Richmond completes two main reporting regimes for Provincial carbon emissions programs on an annual basis - the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) and Carbon Neutral reporting. For Carbon Neutral reporting, the City reports out on its corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions based on Provincial requirements. This was completed in July 2014 for the 2013 reporting year. The purpose of this report is to summarize the reassessment of the 2013 Carbon Neutral reporting, and inform Council of the resulting revision.

Background

The City of Richmond was recognized by the Province and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for achieving carbon neutral status in its corporate operations for the 2013 reporting year (Attachment 1). This achievement completes the City's commitment to becoming carbon neutral, made in 2008 when the City signed the BC Climate Action Charter – a voluntary agreement between the Province, UBCM, and local governments in BC.

The main activities that helped the City achieve this goal were quantifying the GHG emissions reduction, obtaining credits from the diversion of yard waste and kitchen scraps from the Vancouver landfill, and participating in the Metro Vancouver landfill gas capture optimization project.

Some projects that are on-going or recently completed that resulted in significant corporate GHG emissions reduction include the replacement of the boilers at Minoru Arena and the installation of a heat recovery system, the replacement of the main boiler at Gateway Theatre and the installation of a sewage heat recovery system, and the replacement of Fire Hall No.2 with a pending LEED Gold Certified building that includes a geo-exchange heating system and solar thermal hot water system. In addition, through fuel use optimization and right sizing, Fleet fuel emissions have been reduced by approximately 3% since 2007 despite an increase in fleet assets.

Analysis

While the City of Richmond was able to achieve carbon neutral status for 2013, staff undertook a thorough reassessment of the Provincial reporting requirements to ensure that the City was receiving maximum credit. It was determined through this reassessment that Richmond Olympic Oval emissions values, and fleet emissions values for construction purposes should be excluded from corporate totals.

The total corporate Carbon Neutral emissions (in tonnes of CO₂e - tCO₂e) reported to the Province in July 2014 for the 2013 reporting year was as follows:

corporate emissions	9,480 tCO ₂ e
<u>contracted emissions</u>	<u>+ 1,410 tCO₂e</u>
	= 10,890 tCO ₂ e

Based on the completed review of the Provincial reporting requirements, a more accurate total for the 2013 reporting year was calculated, excluding the Richmond Olympic Oval emissions and fleet emissions for construction use:

corporate emissions	7,057 tCO ₂ e
<u>contracted emissions</u>	<u>+ 1,410 tCO₂e</u>
	= 8,467 tCO ₂ e

The following carbon credits were attained for the 2013 reporting year and were used to off-set the City’s 2013 corporate GHG emissions;

Household Organic Waste Composting (municipally collected).....	2,784 tCO ₂ e
Regional Vancouver Landfill Methane Gas Capture Credits	6,791 tCO ₂ e
<u>Organic Waste Composting (resident and commercial drop-off)</u>	<u>4,507 tCO₂e</u>
Total	14,085 tCO ₂ e

Based on the revised total corporate carbon emissions value and the achieved carbon credits for 2013, the surplus carbon credits available for use in the 2014 reporting year has increased from 3,195 tCO₂e to 5,618 tCO₂e.

The revision of corporate carbon neutral emissions reporting values for 2013 does not affect the City’s provincially recognized carbon neutral standing, and will increase the level of surplus carbon credits available for use in 2014.

In order to complete the revision of its 2013 corporate GHG emissions, the City has amended the documentation relating to its Carbon Neutral reporting requirements and has informed the Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development (the Ministry responsible for managing the reporting for the carbon emissions programs) of the changes.

Financial Impact

None at this time.

Conclusion

The City of Richmond continues to meet its commitments as a signatory of the BC Climate Action Charter, and has achieved Council’s objective to become carbon neutral in its corporate operations by investing in corporate and community GHG emissions reduction projects. Through continued pursuit of innovative and efficient means to reduce corporate and community GHG emissions, it is expected that the City of Richmond’s Carbon Neutral status will be maintained.



Levi Higgs, B.Sc., EMIT
 Energy Manager
 (604-244-1239)

Att. 1: Green Communities Committee Carbon Neutral Letter of Recognition



TO: MAYOR & EACH COUNCILLOR			
FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE		DW	
PC: John Irving		MJ	
Robert Gonzalez		DB	

10-6125-07-02

Ref: 155889

August 22, 2014

His Worship Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Members of Council
 City of Richmond
 6911 No. 3 Road
 Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor Brodie and Councillors:

On behalf of the joint Provincial-Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Green Communities Committee (GCC), we would like to extend our sincere congratulations for successfully achieving your goal of corporate carbon neutrality for the 2013 reporting year.

As a signatory to the Climate Action Charter, you have demonstrated your commitment to work with the Province of British Columbia and UBCM to take action on climate change and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in your community and corporate operations.

Climate change is a global challenge. The work that your local government has undertaken to reduce and offset its corporate emissions demonstrates significant climate leadership and sets the stage for broader climate action in your community. This leadership and commitment is essential to ensuring the achievement of our collective climate action goals.

As you are likely aware, the GCC was established under the Charter to support local governments in achieving their climate goals. In acknowledgement of the efforts of local leaders, the GCC is again recognizing the progress and achievements of local governments such as yours through the multi-level Climate Action Recognition Program. A description of this program is enclosed for your reference.

As a Charter signatory who has met the goal of corporate carbon neutrality of the 2013 reporting year, you have been awarded Level 3 recognition – Achievement of Carbon Neutrality.

In recognition of your significant achievements, the GCC is very pleased to provide you with carbon neutral branding for use on websites and letterheads. An electronic file with the 2013 logo will be provided to your Chief Administrative Officer. Also enclosed is a 2013 Green Communities Carbon Neutral window decal, for use on public buildings.

PHOTOCOPIED

AUG 28 2014

& DISTRIBUTED



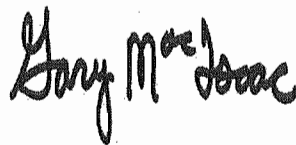
His Worship Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Members of Council
Page 2

Congratulations again on your achievement. We commend your leadership and wish you continued success in your ongoing commitment to the goal of corporate carbon neutrality, and your efforts to reduce emissions in the broader community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Schlosar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jay Schlosar
Assistant Deputy Minister
Local Government Division

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Maclsaac". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Gary" being more prominent.

Gary Maclsaac
Executive Director
Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Enclosures



GCC Communiqué on the Climate Action Recognition Program

In acknowledgment of the ongoing efforts of local leaders, the joint Provincial-UBCM Green Communities Committee (GCC) is pleased to be continuing the **Climate Action Recognition Program** for BC local governments for the 2013 reporting year. This is a multi-level program that provides the GCC with an opportunity to review and publicly recognize the progress and achievements of each *Charter* signatory.

Recognition is provided on an annual basis to local governments who demonstrate progress on their *Charter* commitments, according to the following:

Level 1: Progress on Charter Commitments

All local governments who demonstrate progress on fulfilling one or more of their *Charter* commitments will receive a letter from the GCC acknowledging their accomplishments.

Level 2: Measurement

Local governments who have completed a corporate carbon inventory for the reporting year and demonstrate that they are familiar with the Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) will receive a 'Climate Action Community 2013' logo, for use on websites, letter head and similar.

Level 3: Achievement of Carbon Neutrality

Local governments who achieve carbon neutrality in the reporting year will receive a 'Climate Action Community – Carbon Neutral 2013' logo, for use on websites, letter head and similar.

To be eligible for this program, local governments will need to complete a Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP)/Carbon Neutral Progress Report and submit it to the Province in accordance with the program guidelines. Determination of the level of recognition that each community will receive will be based on the information included in each community's annual CARIP report. Additional information on CARIP reporting is available online at: www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/greencommunities/carip.htm .