



INFORMATION REPORT

Climate Action Part 2: Implementation Update

Meeting date: February 29, 2024

To: SLRD Committee of the Whole

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on 1) the plan for LGCAP funding implementation; 2) proposed approach to integrate the SLRD Climate Action Framework within the SLRD Regional Growth Strategy and RGS review consideration in 2024; and 3) budget and work plan implications.

KEY ISSUES/CONCEPTS:

Previous Resolutions

At the January 25, 2024 Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting, it was resolved:

THAT staff develop a plan for LGCAP funding that considers EV charging stations throughout the region and heat pumps for SLRD facilities, and bring back to a future meeting.

THAT staff pursue the integration of the SLRD Climate Action Framework within the SLRD Regional Growth Strategy and RGS review consideration in 2024.

THAT staff bring back a follow up report outlining next steps and budget/work plan implications to a future Committee of the Whole meeting, based on direction received on the Climate Action Part 1: Current Context & Opportunities report.

THAT the Board rescind the following previous Climate Action resolutions:

June 24, 2020 Resolution:

THAT the City of Rossland - Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy Change resolution be referred to the Climate Action Plan discussion when it comes to the Board.

January 3, 2020 (Board Workshop) Resolution:

Develop a Community Energy and Climate Action Plan in line with the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change science-based targets and including water conservation and food sustainability as guiding principles by June 30, 2020.

Previous Staff Reports

[Climate Action Part 1 – January 25, 2024](#)

RELEVANT POLICIES:

[Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008 Integrated Sustainability Plan \(2012\)](#)

BACKGROUND:

The SLRD Board has made climate action an area of priority, as per the inclusion in the SLRD Board Strategic Plan 2019-2022. Important Climate Actions are being implemented across the SLRD as part of current work; there is also opportunity to consider Climate Action as part of upcoming processes and future work.

SLRD staff suggest a two-part process for Board-level Climate Action discussions and direction, as follows:

Climate Action Part 1 – Current Context & Opportunities

- Current Climate Action: What we are already doing
- Future Climate Action Opportunities: What processes are coming up
- Board Direction: as per January 25, 2024 Board resolutions included above

See Climate Action Part 1 report linked above for full background on Climate Action and related Board resolutions.

Climate Action Part 2 – Implementation Update

- LGCAP Funding
- SLRD RGS and Climate Action Implementation Strategy
- Budget and Work Plan Implications

LGCAP Funding Implementation

The SLRD will have \$165,882 of LGCAP funding in reserve in 2024 and this funding must be used by March 2025. At the Climate Action Part 1 COW meeting, the following direction was received:

THAT staff develop a plan for LGCAP funding that considers EV charging stations throughout the region and heat pumps for SLRD facilities, and bring back to a future meeting.

Work is underway to implement EV charging stations and heat pumps as follows:

- EV Charging Stations: install two Level 2 EV charging stations at the SLRD office
- Heat Pumps: install heat pumps at SLRD facilities (Bralorne Church, Garibaldi Firehall and Britannia Beach Firehall are currently under consideration) and potentially other SLRD facilities, based on the available funds.
- Sea-to-Sky/Friendship Trail: use any remainder funds to upgrade trails

Staff explored the option of installing a level 3 EV charging station at the Gold Bridge community complex, but it is estimated that this would cost ~\$170-200,000, which is out of the budget available under the LGCAP funding program. It is felt that a level 2 EV charging station is not practical in Gold Bridge, given the remoteness of the location. The electrical panel at the Gold Bridge community complex would need to be upgraded to support any EV charging station.

Given the unpredictability of some of the costs associated with the EV charging and heat pump installations, staff suggest that any remainder LGCAP funds be used to support Sea-to-Sky/Friendship Trail upgrades, as these projects are underway and connect to the below outstanding Board resolution from November 2021:

THAT the following items be referred to the workplan of the new Climate Action and Resilience Specialist (once the position is filled, currently anticipated to be late January 2022):

- *the development of a plan for a transition from SLRD internal combustion fleet vehicles to an SLRD electric fleet vehicles and associated charging stations by 2030; and*
- *the development of a plan to increase the availability of walking and cycling trails in the electoral areas by 2030.*

SLRD RGS and Climate Action Implementation Strategy

Proposed approach to integrate the SLRD Climate Action Framework within the SLRD Regional Growth Strategy and RGS review consideration in 2024:

Rather than preparing an additional stand-alone Climate Action Plan/Strategy, there is an opportunity to integrate this work – including targets, strategic directions, indicators/monitoring, and implementation – into the SLRD Regional Growth Strategy.

Based on a 20-year planning approach, with growth management at the core and the ability to influence regional and community change, the SLRD Regional Growth Strategy provides a framework for collaborative, integrated climate action. At the Climate Action Part 1 COW meeting, the following direction was received:

THAT staff pursue the integration of the SLRD Climate Action Framework within the SLRD Regional Growth Strategy and RGS review consideration in 2024.

The proposed process for integration involves: 1) reviewing and updating existing Climate Action Strategic Directions within the RGS; 2) prioritizing RGS Climate Action Strategic Directions; 3) preparing a Climate Action implementation strategy based on the review, update and prioritization work; and 4) funding implementation from future LGCAP funding and other opportunities as they arise. See Appendix A for an example of this process and outcome.

Process:

1. Review and update RGS Climate Action Strategic Directions (amendments to be incorporated into RGS Review process; Appendix A table notes some possible examples of amendments).
2. Prioritize RGS Climate Action Strategic Directions (i.e. HIGH or MEDIUM and short-term/long-term/ongoing).
3. Prepare Climate Action Implementation Strategy (see Appendix A as an example – it could be this simple!) to be an addendum to RGS Bylaw (not part of bylaw so the implementation strategy can be updated as necessary without having to amend the RGS bylaw).
4. Fund Implementation from LGCAP (assuming LGCAP funding program continues beyond 2024 TBC) and other sources as opportunities arise.

Climate Action monitoring and reporting will continue as per existing legislated requirements for RGS annual reports and indicator monitoring.

Budget and Work Plan Implications

Resiliency/Climate Action Coordinator: The Board approved the addition of a 50% position for a new resiliency coordinator/climate action position 2020-2024 Financial Plan). This position was in place for a number of months, but is no longer filled and many Climate Action tasks have now been re-assigned to the Planning and Development Services Department. **For clarity, budget has been reallocated to other departments, and there is no longer a specific Climate Action Coordinator Position at this time.**

Planning & Development Services and Environmental Services Collaboration: The proposed approaches and processes build off of existing capacities, funding and work programs. No new budget or significant changes in work plans are proposed.

NEXT STEPS:

LGCAP Funding Next Steps:

- Environmental Services to take lead on EV charging installation at the SLRD office, heat pump installation at SLRD facilities (Bralorne Church, Garibaldi Firehall and Britannia Beach Firehall) and possibly other SLRD facilities (dependent on power supply issues, etc.), and potential Sea-to-Sky trail upgrades;
- Planning and Development Services to take lead on Climate Action Prioritization, Implementation Strategy and Funding/Reporting/Monitoring of implementation actions (through RGS work).

Climate Action Implementation Strategy Next Steps:

1. Review and update RGS Climate Action Strategic Directions as part of the RGS Review consideration and amendment process (2024)
2. Prioritize RGS Climate Action Strategic Directions
3. Prepare Climate Action Implementation Strategy, based on the review, update and prioritization of the RGS Climate Action Strategic Directions. Climate Action Implementation Strategy to be an addendum to the RGS Bylaw.
4. Fund Implementation from LGCAP (assuming LGCAP funding program continues beyond 2024 TBC) and other sources as opportunities arise.

REGIONAL IMPACTS ANALYSIS:

Climate Action – including mitigation and adaptation – has regional impacts. The SLRD Regional Growth Strategy is an initiative of and applies to the four member municipalities and Electoral Areas B, C and D. It is a tool to support collaboration and achievement of smart growth; and it could be a tool to integrate Climate Action priorities, targets, indicators/monitoring and implementation across the SLRD. LGCAP Funding could be used to support local or regional climate action, with impacts varying depending on the nature of the action. The new *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* and the resulting requirements for local governments will have regional impacts.

FOLLOW UP ACTION:

Environmental Services staff to initiate RFPs and lead EV charger installation at the SLRD office and heat pump installation at SLRD facilities (tentatively Bralorne Church, Garibaldi Firehall and Britannia Beach Firehall), with any remainder LGCAP funds to be implemented toward existing Sea-to-Sky Trail/Friendship Trail upgrades. Planning and Development Services staff to take lead on Climate Action Prioritization, Implementation Strategy and Funding/Reporting/Monitoring of implementation actions (through RGS work and LGCAP funding).

Other, as per the Board's direction.

APPENDICIES:

Appendix A: Example – Climate Action Implementation Strategy

Submitted by: C. Dewar, Senior Planner

Reviewed by: K. Needham, Director of Planning and Development Services

Approved by: H. Paul, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A

EXAMPLE

Climate Action Implementation Strategy

RGS Goal 11 Take Action on Climate Change Strategic Directions

11.1 The SLRD and member municipalities agree to:

Priority	Timeframe	Climate Action Strategic Direction	Notes	Implementation Actions
complete	ongoing	a) Adopt Provincial GHG reduction targets	Targets to be revised to IPCC/best science as part of RGS Review SLRD OCPs will need to be updated to reference new GHG targets	
complete	ongoing	b) Maintain status as BC Climate Action Charter signatories.	N/A	
MEDIUM	short-term	c) Explore the development of climate change adaptation and mitigation plans and options to measure, monitor, evaluate and report on community GHG emissions. This will be pursued by developing/maintaining climate change adaptation and mitigation plans and/or monitoring and reporting programs, and by lobbying the province to re-establish the Community Energy and Emissions (CEEI) Inventory in support of community-level monitoring and meeting Climate Action Charter commitments.	Update as part of RGS Review to remove reference to “plans” and focus on monitoring/reporting of energy and emissions	Complete monitoring of energy and emissions as part of RGS Indicator Monitoring (tentatively set for 2025) Explore additional indicators/data/monitoring options
HIGH	short-term	d) Explore the feasibility of preparing a regional climate action strategy. This will be pursued through discussions with federal and provincial agencies, community	Update as part of RGS Review to reference “implementation strategy” instead	Prepare Climate Action Implementation Strategy based on prioritized RGS Climate Action Strategic Direction

EXAMPLE

Climate Action Implementation Strategy

		organizations and the Union of BC Municipalities.		
HIGH	short-term	e) Substantially reduce GHG emissions: i. from mobile sources This will be pursued by limiting growth outside of established urban areas and prioritizing infrastructure development and policies that support preferred modes of transportation for inter and intra community travel.	This connects to EV charging and LGCAP funding utilization	Install EV chargers at the SLRD office and, in future, SLRD facilities throughout the region
MEDIUM	short-term	ii. from stationary sources This will be pursued through collective prioritization of energy efficient development and may include establishing Green Building Policies, creating incentive structures, encouraging retrofit programs, exploring development controls, exploring district energy systems, and lobbying the province for building code extensions. Additionally, the SLRD and member municipalities agree to explore the BC Energy Step Code.	This connects to heat pump and solar retrofits (SLRD facilities) and LGCAP funding utilization	Install heat pumps in SLRD facilities, as appropriate, starting with the Gold Bridge Community Centre, and possibly the SLRD office building. Install solar panels on SLRD facilities, in future, where appropriate and as funding is made available.
HIGH	long-term	iii. associated with solid waste management This will be pursued by continuing to develop and implement policies, practices and targets toward achieving Zero Waste Goals.		Explore organics diversion options/programs in SLRD electoral areas
HIGH	ongoing	f) Ensure regional/municipal decision-making is structured to achieve GHG reduction targets and energy goals. This will be pursued by supporting compact, complete, efficient land use patterns and		

EXAMPLE

Climate Action Implementation Strategy

		using an integrated asset management approach in which consideration is given to the full costs throughout an asset's life cycle (lifecycle costs), prioritizing opportunities for GHG and energy reduction. This may also involve expanding/updating corporate purchasing policies.		
MEDIUM	long-term	g) Utilize local third party accredited carbon offset programs and explore the creation of locally and/or regionally planned and managed third party accredited carbon credit/trading systems, with potential offsets going towards tangible local projects. This will be pursued by working with community organizations, local governments and provincial agencies/authorities.		
HIGH	long-term	h) Protect the carbon sequestration value of natural systems, including forested lands and wetlands, and explore opportunities to strategically acquire protected areas that contribute to climate change mitigation. This will be pursued by protecting forested lands and wetlands under local government jurisdiction, expanding protected areas where possible, and considering carbon sequestration values in provincial referral responses.	This is one of those areas that RDs could have big impact compared to munis	Identify local options to support carbon sequestration
HIGH	ongoing	i) Consider impacts to local community GHG emissions in decision-making around GHG-intensive industries and utilities, LNG, and commercial recreation and leisure operators. This will be pursued through development approval and environmental assessment		

EXAMPLE

Climate Action Implementation Strategy

		processes and lobbying efforts with provincial and federal government.		
HIGH	ongoing	<p>j) Prioritize developing strategies and taking action to reduce personal transport emissions.</p> <p>This will be pursued by developing compact, complete land use patterns and expanding the share of preferred modes of transportation.</p>		
MEDIUM	long-term	<p>k) Encourage the development and use of renewable energy across the region.</p> <p>This will be pursued through partnerships and in consultation with communities, exploring options at both the building-level and grid or system level. It may include advancing opportunities to incent small-scale, renewable energy production and use, exploring new technologies through pilot projects, and supporting provincial building code extensions and other tools to facilitate renewable energy systems in local development and construction.</p>	This connects to discussion at COW Part 1	
HIGH	long-term	<p>l) Build climate resilience.</p> <p>This will be pursued through efforts to address the vulnerability that communities have to the environmental consequences of climate change and expand the capacity of citizens, institutions and infrastructure to respond to and influence change. Special consideration must be made for those in our</p>	Connections to new emergency management legislation	

EXAMPLE

Climate Action Implementation Strategy

		communities who are most vulnerable and least able to respond or influence.		
HIGH	ongoing	<p>m) Plan for climate change.</p> <p>This will be pursued by ensuring new land use, buildings and infrastructure are planned and designed with tomorrow's climate in mind.</p>		
HIGH	short-term	<p>n) Prepare for extreme weather events, natural hazards and other large-scale emergencies that may increase in frequency and intensity as a result of climate change.</p> <p>This will be pursued by expanding on emergency preparedness and management plans/strategies and enhancing community resiliency and self sufficiency – both human and physical infrastructure.</p>		Connects to Protective Services work
HIGH	long-term	<p>o) Pursue community engagement and consultation opportunities around climate change – with a focus on mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>This will be pursued by collaborating with local organizations, agencies, and stakeholders to build awareness, empowerment and commitment to take local action on climate change.</p>		
MEDIUM	ongoing	<p>p) Ensure Climate Action is evidence-based.</p> <p>This will be pursued by using data and modeling to inform climate action planning and decision-making.</p>	This will be pursued through the RGS and all land-use planning decision making.	