

2005 ENERGY AWARE AWARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BOWEN ISLAND COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING

Incorporated in December 1999, Bowen Island Municipality is an island community of about 3,000 people located in Howe Sound. In early 2001, the Bowen Island Municipal Council formed the Bowen Island Sustainable Community Task Force (now called the Bowen Island Sustainable Community Advisory Committee) with a mandate to,

“Recommend actions to Council that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce waste production, reduce water consumption, and generally further social, environmental, and economic sustainability of the Bowen Island community.”

The Task Force approached the British Columbia Energy Aware Committee (EAC) to partner with them on the implementation of a “Community Energy Planning” (CEP) process. Although it would be rare for a small community of 3,000 people to undertake a CEP process, Bowen Island Municipal Council felt the project was important and approved a financial expenditure to support the process.

The project is being managed by the Bowen Island Sustainable Community Advisory Committee and the B.C. Energy Aware Committee, with support from the Bowen Island Municipality, the Pembina Institute, BC Hydro, TransLink, BC Ferries Inc., and a local housing developer. The Bowen Island CEP process could easily be used as a model by other communities similar in size to Bowen Island.