

Vancouver: The Climate-Friendly City

Application for the 2006 Energy Aware Award

Executive Summary

In 2005, Vancouver officially adopted a Community Climate Change Action Plan, which complements the previously adopted Corporate Climate Change Action Plan. These initiatives launch a new era in municipal government in British Columbia, as municipalities of all sizes take action to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The City has launch multiple programs in support of these plans, and these programs already have begun to produce results. A few specific new actions include:

- Creation of a Neighbourhood Energy Utility for Southeast False Creek and the Sustainability Precinct, which would provide GHG-neutral heating and domestic hot water to over 10 million square feet of new development. This \$16.5 million investment will provide a reasonable return on investment, and enables to City to evaluate other potential district energy options throughout the city.
- Launching of One Day, an open source community engagement program designed to help people take action to support their values of clean, green and healthy living.
- Comprehensive, multimillion-dollar retrofit program for City buildings, to reduce energy use and GHG emissions, and to produce a meaningful long-term return on investment.
- Establishment of a Climate Leaders Council, comprised of leaders from business and organisations in Vancouver, who support the City's actions and are committing their own organisations to action, including several who have committed to becoming carbon neutral by set dates.

These efforts are the beginning of Vancouver's path to responsible energy use, and helping people find a way to respond to the global ecological crisis of climate change. We will be continuing to launch new initiatives in the coming months, designed to help Vancouver meet its targets and to create a sustainable city.

The City also has made an explicit effort to assist our neighbouring communities in all aspects of our climate change programs. We have been a driving force to facilitate a regional call to action, focused on actions that can make a difference. All of our programs are being designed in recognition of the need for action across all municipalities, and our staff have made themselves available to help other communities.