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BC LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TAKE THE LEAD ON ENERGY ACTION

Minister Mary Polak presents North Cowichan, Surrey and Campbell River with Climate & Energy Action Awards. Colwood and Telkwa and Capital Regional District receive Honourable Mentions.

[Vancouver] **Environment Minister Mary Polak** presented awards recognizing the leadership of North Cowichan, Surrey and Campbell River at the Union of BC Municipalities convention. "I am proud of the steps being taken by local governments across the province to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to build complete, compact, energy-efficient communities," said Polak. "The three communities being recognized here today have demonstrated outstanding leadership and innovation and their actions will inspire others."

North Cowichan won in the **Community Planning and Development** category for the *Climate Action and Energy Plan* and their commitment to funding the Climate Action Reserve Fund with a 0.5% increase in property taxes. North Cowichan expects to create over 600 new jobs and to save about \$130 million in energy costs by achieving its 2050 target. In accepting the award, Mayor Jon Lefebure said "The Municipality collaborated with community members and partners to develop this plan and looks forward to working with them to implement it. Community support was critical to developing the Climate Action Reserve Fund, which we believe will be a valuable tool to help North Cowichan move towards a low-carbon lifestyle."

City of Surrey won in the **Corporate Operations** category. City of Surrey's city-owned geexchange district energy utility will deliver thermal energy to City Hall and the library, reducing energy consumption by 60% and GHG emissions by 1,200 tonnes/year. In the past two years, the City has created an energy utility, a service area bylaw and a financial assistance policy for developers. "The City Centre district energy system creates a viable energy infrastructure for Surrey's Civic Plaza and adjacent developments," said Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts. "This area is transforming into a high-density, sustainable, urban downtown and, as a clean renewable energy source, the geexchange system will reduce emissions, lower energy costs and add incentive for investment."

City of Campbell River won the **Public Sector Collaboration** award for their partnership with **School District 72**. The City and SD72 collaborated on solar hot water and electric vehicle charging station installations, wind energy assessments and energy efficiency measures, reducing total GHG emissions by 12% and 19% respectively, while reducing operating costs. "This partnership has resulted in significant energy savings and behaviour change and has created leadership at multiple levels," said Mayor Jakeway. "It also helps our youth become involved in planning for Campbell River's sustainability, which is essential to creating a resilient, low-carbon community over the long term."

"The awards highlight the incredible momentum amongst BC communities toward achieving energy sustainability," said Darrell Mussatto, Co-chair of the Community Energy Association and Mayor of the City of North Vancouver. "Many municipalities are well on their way to meeting their greenhouse gas emission reduction targets."

Honourable Mentions were awarded to:

- **City of Colwood** for its commitment to implementing the Solar Colwood program
- **Capital Regional District, Camosun College, University of Victoria, Royal Roads University and BC Hydro Power Smart** for Ready, Set, Solve: The Student Climate Challenge
- **Village of Telkwa** for the greening of the Hankin Corner Building

The awards are organized annually by the Community Energy Association in partnership with the Province of BC, Union of BC Municipalities, BC Hydro and FortisBC.



[2]

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For more information on applicants and their projects, visit Community Energy Association's website at:
<http://www.communityenergy.bc.ca/>