

NEWS RELEASE

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2010 Energy & Climate Action Awards - Leadership in Action

The City of Prince George and District of Maple Ridge are winners of the 2010 Energy and Climate Action Awards for local governments. The City of Prince George won the award in the *Community Planning and Development* category for implementation of its Greenhouse Gas Management Plan, including development of a downtown district energy system and a community energy mapping project for residential buildings.

The City addressed technical challenges, issues and perceptions around bioenergy and is now developing the downtown District Energy System (DES) with the support of the community. The DES is projected to reduce GHG emissions by 1900 tonnes per year, and particulate emissions by 100 tonnes per year.

The District of Maple Ridge won the award in the *Corporate Operations* category for energy efficiency upgrades to the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre and an innovative approach to information services (IT). Extensive retrofits of the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre, including use of solar panels for domestic and recreational water heating, reduced natural gas consumption by 47% and carbon dioxide emissions by 206 tonnes, while the IT project led to a reduction in electrical consumption of 230,000 kWh/year and a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of 4.6 tonnes.

The awards were presented at the Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention by **John Yap, Minister of State for Climate Action**. "I want to thank these communities because they exemplify how local governments across B.C. are being creative in the quest to reduce the size of their energy footprint and build resilient communities," said Yap. "Local governments that become more energy-efficient are showing they can save money while responding to climate change."

In accepting the award, **Prince George Mayor Dan Rogers** said "the District Energy System we are developing will help us capture a number of community benefits. These include a reduction in GHG emissions, improvements to air quality, long term energy security, and economic development opportunities that arise by having a readily accessible source of green energy for downtown." **Maple Ridge Mayor Ernie Daykin** noted that "These projects exemplify Maple Ridge's commitment to weaving sustainability into every business decision, sending a clear message to the community about the District's commitment to sustainability and our intent to be an environmental leader amongst Canadian municipalities."

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“The awards celebrate leadership of local governments taking action on climate change and energy. This year's winners demonstrate that energy planning, energy efficiency and renewable energy are possible no matter where you live in the province,” said **Richard White, Co-Chair, Community Energy Association and Director of Community Development, City of North Vancouver.**

Honourable Mentions were awarded to:

- **City of Campbell River** for its triple bottom line approach to corporate building renovations and leadership demonstrated in development of City Hall's Green Roof.
- **District of Tofino** for its consistent 'green ethos,' as exemplified by leading edge application of planning policy and a wide array of implementation initiatives throughout the community.
- **City of North Vancouver** for the development of its Community Energy and Emissions Plan, which included a sophisticated modelling approach partnered with broad public engagement.

Applications were received from 19 local governments this year – the most ever received.

In addition to winners and honourable mentions, entries in the **Community Planning and Development** category included District of Elkford, City of Fort St. John, Fraser Valley Regional District, Islands Trust, City of Quesnel, City of Richmond, District of Saanich, and Squamish-Lillooet Regional District. In the **Corporate Operations** category, entries included Carbon Neutral Kootenays Project, City of Colwood, City of Fernie, Township of Langley, City of Nanaimo, and City of Pitt Meadows.

The awards are organized annually by the Community Energy Association in partnership with the Province of British Columbia, Union of British Columbia Municipalities and BC Hydro. The Community Energy Association is the 'first stop' for local government leaders addressing energy sustainability and climate action.

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