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BC LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TAKE THE LEAD ON ENERGY ACTION

Minister Terry Lake presents the Cities of Vancouver, Dawson Creek and Colwood with Climate & Energy Action Awards at Union of BC Municipalities convention. Burns Lake, Coquitlam and the Carbon Neutral Kootenays project receive Honourable Mentions.

[Vancouver] The Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment presented awards recognizing the leadership of Vancouver, Dawson Creek and Colwood at the Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention. "I want to thank these communities because they demonstrate how local governments across B.C. are being creative in the quest to reduce the size of their carbon footprint," said Minister Lake. "Local governments that become more energy-efficient are showing they can save money while addressing climate change."

The City of Vancouver won in the *Community Planning and Development* category for the Greenest City Action Plan. The Plan's ambitious goals are already being implemented thanks to staff commitment from all departments and the leadership of Mayor Robertson and Council. In accepting the award, Mayor Gregor Robertson said "Our work to become the greenest city in the world isn't just good for the environment, it makes our local economy more competitive. Reducing energy use and GHG emissions is making Vancouver a global leader in the green economy, and improving Vancouver's quality of life. "

The City of Dawson Creek won in the *Corporate Operations* category for its Internal Carbon Fund of \$100/tonne to support emissions reduction projects. "Dawson Creek has been a leader in energy, climate change and sustainability in BC for many years," said Mike Bernier, Mayor of Dawson Creek. "We have clearly demonstrated that we are committed to taking action on climate change and implementing innovative policies, plans, and actions to meet our Climate Action Charter commitment and become carbon neutral by 2012."

The City of Colwood won the *Public Sector Collaboration* category for the Solar Colwood Initiative. A unique collaboration between the City, Royal Roads University and BC Hydro, Solar Colwood is targeting energy retrofits of 1,000 homes in the community. Mayor David Saunders from the City of Colwood thanked all Solar Colwood project partners, staff, and councillors who helped make Solar Colwood happen, noting that "the Solar Colwood program is showing great promise for achieving the City's residential retrofit target."

"The awards draw attention to the diverse challenges of achieving energy sustainability – and to the creativity and tenacity of those who are aiming to overcome them," said Dan Rogers Chair, Community Energy Association and Mayor of the City of Prince George.

Honourable Mentions were awarded to:

- Village of Burns Lake for a bioenergy retrofit of the Tom Forsyth Memorial Arena.
- City of Coquitlam for its holistic approach to reducing emissions from City buildings.
- The Carbon Neutral Kootenays project, a regional collaboration between Kootenay local governments and the Columbia Basin Trust.

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

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