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BC LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TAKE THE LEAD ON ENERGY ACTION

Parliamentary Secretary Reimer presents Richmond, Nanaimo and Telkwa with Climate & Energy Action Awards. Campbell River, Metro Vancouver, Saanich and Sparwood receive Honourable Mentions.

[Whistler] **Linda Reimer, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development for Communities and Port Moody-Coquitlam MLA**, presented awards recognizing the leadership of Richmond, Nanaimo and Telkwa at the Union of BC Municipalities convention. “I am proud of B.C.’s local governments and their efforts to reduce GHG emissions through such a wide variety of innovative projects that are increasing local energy resiliency and reducing costs,” said Reimer. “The communities being recognized here today have demonstrated outstanding leadership and innovation and their actions will inspire others.”

Richmond won in the **Community Planning and Development** category for the *Alexandra District Geothermal Energy Utility*, which provides energy to 600 residential units, reducing GHG emissions by around 1,125 tonnes per year. In accepting the award, Mayor Malcolm Brodie noted that “Richmond is strongly committed to being a sustainable community and has been a consistent leader in championing the use of alternative energy sources to help reduce greenhouses gas emissions. The Alexandra District Energy Utility is just the first step in implementing the City’s ambitious district energy program.”

Nanaimo won in the **Corporate Operations** category for the energy recovery facility constructed as part of a new water supply system. Avoided energy costs are nearly \$100,000 per year and the system is generating enough electricity to power 160 to 190 homes. The City worked very closely with BC Hydro throughout development and an electricity purchase agreement was successfully executed early in 2014. “Nanaimo’s innovative new water supply system benefits our growing community while directly supporting our climate action goals,” said Mayor John Ruttan. “The new system generates clean energy and reduces operating costs while providing new revenue to be reinvested in our water supply system.”

Telkwa won the **Public Sector Collaboration** award for their biomass district energy partnership with School District 54, an outstanding example of how public sector joint renewable energy projects can provide energy security and climate action benefits for both partners. The partnership with the school district was essential to system funding, design and development and the school is an important customer of the system while also providing back-up heat in extreme cold. “This project is an excellent example of how Telkwa is working with partners to achieve economic, environmental, social and cultural sustainability,” said Mayor Graf.

“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. “BC communities are identifying effective solutions to achieve their greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and, at the same time, realizing significant co-benefits from these projects.”

Honourable Mentions were awarded to:

- **Campbell River** for *Power Down Campbell River* & **Metro Vancouver** for *Charging up the Region*
- **Saanich** for its *Fuel Efficient Municipal Fleet* and **Sparwood** for its *Leisure Centre Energy Retrofit*

The awards are organized annually by the Community Energy Association in partnership with the Province of B.C., Union of BC Municipalities, BC 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/>