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BC LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TAKE THE LEAD ON ENERGY ACTION

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources presents the City of Richmond, Village of Granisle and City of Surrey with Climate & Energy Action Awards. Fraser Valley Regional District, the City of Vernon and City of Campbell River receive Honourable Mentions.

[Vancouver] The Honourable Michelle Mungall, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources presented Climate & Energy Action Awards recognizing the climate leadership of BC local governments at the annual Union of BC Municipalities Convention today.

“Local governments across BC are taking action to reduce climate pollution, build our clean energy economy, and create new jobs and opportunities for communities,” said Michelle Mungall, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. “The innovative projects we are celebrating today are great examples of the leadership we need to achieve the goals of the Province’s CleanBC plan. Congratulations to all of this year’s winners.”

The City of Richmond won in the **Community Development** category for “**EV Ready**” **Charging Infrastructure Requirements Leadership**. Following an extensive multi-stakeholder consultation process and costing study, City Council adopted a requirement in its Zoning Bylaw that all residential parking spaces in new developments include an energized electrical outlet that is capable of providing Level 2 EV charging. In accepting the award, Mayor Brodie noted, “GHG emissions savings could exceed 500,000 tonnes if an estimated 18,000 multi-family apartment units, which are subject to this requirement, are constructed in the next 20 years.”

The Village of Granisle won a 2019 Climate & Energy Action Award in the **Corporate Operations** category for its **Biomass District Heating System**. The Village constructed a district heating system using wood chips to heat seven municipal buildings. It also partnered with School District 91 to sell heat to Babine Elementary Secondary School “As a result of this project, Granisle has decreased the use of propane and electricity in municipal buildings heated by these energy sources and the school,” said Mayor McGuire. “By partnering with the school district, the bioenergy system also enabled the Village to generate revenue to offset the operational costs.”

This year, to acknowledge the leadership shown by local government on climate resilience, a new **Climate Adaptation** award category was introduced. The **City of Surrey** is the category’s inaugural winner for its **Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy** (CFAS). To develop this strategy, the City led an innovative public planning process where residents and stakeholders provided input in identifying and prioritizing coastal adaptation options for future sea level rise. According to Mayor McCallum, “with 20% of Surrey’s landmass in a coastal floodplain, the actions outlined under CFAS are essential in our fight against climate change and the strategy is a comprehensive approach to increasing the resilience of our community to coastal flooding.”

“BC communities continue to take progressive action on climate change by instituting projects that help to reduce their corporate and community greenhouse gas emissions as well as adapt to climate impacts,” said Patrick Johnstone, **Chair of the Community Energy Association** and Councillor with the City of New Westminster. “This local government action is vital to achieve BC’s long term GHG emission reduction targets.”

Honourable Mentions were awarded to **Fraser Valley Regional District** for the dual submission of **Love Our Air Education Program** and **Fraser Valley Food Recovery Project** (Community Development Category), the **City of Vernon** for the **Climate Action Revolving Fund for Electric Bicycle Fleet** (Corporate Category) and the **City of Campbell River** for the **Campbell River Rising Seas Project** (Climate Adaptation).

The Community Energy Association organizes the Climate and Energy Action Awards annually in partnership with the Province of BC, Union of BC Municipalities, BC Hydro, FortisBC, and Real Estate Foundation of BC. For more information on applicants and their projects, visit the Community Energy Association's website at <http://communityenergy.bc.ca>

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