

Winners of the 2021 Climate & Energy Action Awards Announced

Vancouver, B.C. – Community Energy Association is pleased to announce that the City of Richmond, District of Summerland, and District of North Vancouver are recipients of the 2021 Climate & Energy Action Awards. The Capital Regional District receives an honourable mention.

Since 1998, the Climate & Energy Action Awards have celebrated the many ways local governments across British Columbia have helped their communities save energy, emissions and money. Whether big or small, urban or rural, north and south, CEA recognizes all communities bringing innovative climate and energy solutions to the table. As we enter the decade of climate action—the ten years leading up to 2030 emissions reduction targets—more ambitious measures are being taken by local governments in the transition to a low carbon future.

This year, fifteen communities were nominated in three categories—Community Planning and Development, Corporate Operations, and Climate Adaptation. In 2021, there was an increase in applications in the Community Planning and Development and Climate Adaptation categories. This highlights that local governments are tackling more significant community-wide climate actions and seriously examining how climate change is already impacting communities. Adapting to a new normal is top of mind after a summer of heat domes, flash floods, and forest fires.

The **City of Richmond** is the winner of the **Community Planning and Development** category for their District Energy Implementation Program. The City of Richmond currently has three district energy utilities that provide locally sourced, low carbon energy to 22 buildings. It has the potential to become the largest city-owned district energy system in North America. The City's leadership and implementation of the program shows best practices in technology, impact, and economics.

The **Capital Regional District** received an honourable mention for their *Bring it Home for the Climate* program. This pilot program supports homeowners interested in improving energy efficiency and reducing the carbon footprint of their homes through energy audits and in-depth expert coaching. With homes and buildings making up to 50% of GHG emissions in the CRD, the program is an important effort in tackling the energy retrofit space.

The **District of Summerland** is the winner for their numerous low carbon and renewable energy projects in the **Corporate Operations** category. They have acted on various projects, from solar photovoltaics and battery storage to electric vehicles and equipment, heat pumps, LEDs, and more. The District's ability to move from planning to implementation has made them leaders in the climate action space.

The **District of North Vancouver** is the winner of the **Climate Adaptation** category for their leadership in the North Shore Sea Level Rise Risk Assessment and Adaptive Management Strategy. The strategy was developed by the District of North Vancouver, the City of North Vancouver, the District of West Vancouver, North Shore Emergency Management, the Port of Vancouver, and the Squamish Nation. The

strategy provides a comprehensive toolkit of adaptation measures, guidance on policies, and adaptation concepts for nine coastal areas that will be utilized in future adaptation plans.

The awards are organized annually by Community Energy Association in partnership with the Province of British Columbia, Union of BC Municipalities, BC Hydro, FortisBC, and Real Estate Foundation of BC. For more information on all project nominees, visit the Community Energy Association's website at <https://www.communityenergy.ca/awards/>.

Dale Littlejohn, Executive Director, Community Energy Association

"The Climate & Energy Action awards recognize the importance of municipal leadership in reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. All of the nominees this year deserve recognition for their hard work. Their programs and projects demonstrate high impact solutions that can be replicated in other regions and communities."

Mayor Malcolm Brodie, City of Richmond

The City of Richmond is a proud leader in climate action, and our District Energy Utility Program has played an important role in improving the quality of life for residents and businesses by providing clean, efficient energy to our community. Since its launch in 2010, Richmond's District Energy Utility Program has grown to now provide 22 buildings and over five million square feet of floor space with energy that is reducing greenhouse gas emissions by over 7,800 tonnes—the equivalent of removing 2,000 cars from our roads each year."

Mayor Toni Boot, District of Summerland

"The District of Summerland is reducing emissions and building solutions that create many co-benefits for our community. We hope other communities are inspired to do the same as we all work to transform local actions into global impact. Early last year Council adopted Summerland's Corporate Energy & Emissions Management Plan: Our work is just beginning! We will continue to advance low carbon and renewable energy projects within our operations and the broader community."

Mayor Mike Little, District of North Vancouver

"We are very honoured to receive this award. This project was a great collaboration with our neighbours and we look forward to taking collective action to reduce our environmental impact and make our community more resilient to the negative impacts of climate change."

About Community Energy Association

Community Energy Association is a member-based, non-profit organization working since 1995 at the community level to reduce emissions, conserve energy and progressively transition to a low carbon, resilient economy. As a non-profit society, all proceeds from our work go back to advancing community climate action solutions. As a trusted independent advisor to local governments, CEA facilitates coaching and education for individuals and institutions and researches, plans and implements climate solutions, including electric vehicle charging networks. CEA's staff across BC have over 160 person-years of experience helping communities collaborate with utilities and the province to advance climate action.

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