



## Re: Update on Help Cities Lead

Dear Mayor and Council,

We want to thank your Council for supporting the [Help Cities Lead](#) (HCL) initiative earlier this year - our Steering Committee would like to share some exciting updates on the campaign.

To date, 40 local and regional governments around BC have formally endorsed the campaign - communities large and small from Kitimat to Vancouver. Resolutions supporting Help Cities Lead were endorsed by the executives of both the [Lower Mainland Local Government Association](#) (LMLGA) and the [Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities](#) (AVICC). We were pleased to see that both resolutions were then passed by the members at Convention and will proceed to the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM).

The five policies of the HCL campaign were designed prior to last year's provincial election. We were very pleased to see three of our five policies outlined in post-election mandate letters to the new cabinet.

Local governments which have endorsed the campaign will have received a letter of response from Minister Ralston confirming: the development of a PACE roadmap; ongoing work to develop policy options for home energy labeling; and a commitment to "support local governments to set their own carbon pollution standard for new buildings". The letter also affirmed that "the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing is currently developing an Existing Buildings Renewal Strategy, which will include actions to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions". Of HCL's five policy asks, building GHG benchmarking is the only policy that has not yet been supported by the Province.

The HCL Steering Committee has also had very positive meetings with Ministers Eby, Osbourne, Ralston, and Heyman, acknowledging the importance of working collaboratively across levels of government to ensure building decarbonization actions are designed and implemented to meet our emissions reduction targets. Comments also reinforced the need to act with urgency. These Ministerial meetings were followed by a meeting between the HCL Steering Committee and members of the Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) to discuss our policy proposals. Further meetings with CAS are planned.

Our next steps include:

- LGLMA and AVICC resolutions supporting HCL will move forward to the UBCM convention. We ask that you watch for Help Cities Lead in the UBCM package and resolution discussion and make sure your vote is counted
- Building our [list of supporters](#). If you know of a fellow elected official in BC, whose municipality hasn't already endorsed HCL, and who might support the work we are doing, please let us know as we would like to reach out to them
- Continuing to meet with Ministers and Provincial officials to advance the policies of HCL

Help Cities Lead will continue working to provide local governments with the tools we need to address our single greatest source of greenhouse gas emissions: our buildings. Thank you for your support of our campaign this year, we will continue to keep you updated on further progress.

HCL Steering Committee

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