



# WHISTLER

## REPORT | INFORMATION REPORT TO COUNCIL

**PRESENTED:** September 1, 2020  
**FROM:** Resort Experience  
**SUBJECT:** WHISTLER ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND GREENHOUSE GAS PERFORMANCE TRENDS – 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

**REPORT:** 20-078  
**FILE:** A05001

### COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**That** the recommendation of the General Manager of Resort Experience be endorsed.

### RECOMMENDATION

**That** Council receive Information Report No. 20-078 regarding Whistler's Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Performance Trends – 2019 Annual Report.

### REFERENCES

Appendix "A" – Whistler Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Performance Trends – 2019 Annual Report

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this Report is three-fold. Firstly, the 2019 Annual Report provides a summary of Whistler's community energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions performance for calendar year 2019. Secondly it provides a summary of the 2019 energy and GHG emissions performance associated with the RMOW's corporate operations. Lastly, the report provides an update on Q1 and Q2 2020 implementation progress of Whistler's Community Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP).

### DISCUSSION

Whistler's Official Community Plan vision is to be a place where our *community thrives, nature is protected, and guests are inspired*. The Whistler community has a special dependence on weather patterns that deliver sufficient snowfall throughout the winter season. This intrinsic relationship to the weather has heightened awareness about Whistler's shared responsibility to monitor and manage our energy use and GHG emissions—and the potential impacts if we do not.

Regular public reports on the community and corporate energy, and GHG emissions performance have been published annually since 2013 and bi-annually since 2010 and continue to be part of Whistler's commitment under Whistler's newly adopted Official Community Plan, the Community Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP), the BC Climate Action Charter, as well as the Provincial Climate Action Rebate Incentive Program.

The intent of the 2019 Annual Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Performance Trends Annual Report (Annual Report) is to provide transparent access to relevant energy and climate related performance, as well as to inform both RMOW and community decisions as they relate to climate and energy management goals.

The attached 2019 Annual Report is divided into five chapters, with chapter 2 providing a brief background on energy and emissions planning in Whistler as well as an overview of the methodologies used to quantify Whistler's community wide and corporate GHG emissions. Chapter 3 reports on Whistler's community wide GHG emissions in 2019 which are estimated to total 131,166 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). This is a 4 per cent increase compared to 2018 and 1 per cent lower than 2007 (133,019 tCO<sub>2</sub>e). Passenger vehicle emissions account for 54 per cent of Whistler's community wide GHG emissions, followed by natural gas (35 per cent) primarily used for space and water heating.

Community energy consumption for 2019 totaled 3.5 M GJ, which was a 3 per cent increase compared to 2018. Electricity is the most prevalent type of energy consumed in Whistler at 39 per cent of the total consumption, followed by vehicle fuels (31 per cent), and natural gas (27 per cent). Community energy expenses for 2019 totaled \$94 million, which was a 1 per cent increase from 2018. Electricity expenses make up 43 per cent of all energy expenses and increased by 5 per cent from 2018. Passenger vehicle expenses account for 45 per cent of total expenses but decreased by 5 per cent from 2018.

Chapter 4 reports on the RMOW corporate GHG emissions in 2019, which were 2,360 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. Direct corporate GHG emissions were 1,609 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, a 5 per cent decrease from 2018 and contracted emissions were 751 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, a 55 per cent increase from 2018. The increase in GHG emissions from contracted services stems from the inclusion of solid waste transportation to the Surrey rail yard from where it is transported to the Rabanco landfill. On a division-by-division basis, the relative emissions footprint of corporate operations is as follows: (42 per cent) Infrastructure Services, (28 per cent) Corporate and Community Services, and (29 per cent) Resort Experience. GHG emissions across corporate operations are produced primarily from combustion of natural gas at 47 per cent, followed by use of mobile fuels (gasoline and diesels) at 43 per cent, and electricity at 9 per cent.

Direct corporate energy consumption increased in 2019 by 4 per cent to 78,091 GJ/year due to an 11 per cent increase in electricity consumption. Electricity consumption makes up the greatest portion of total energy consumed across municipal operations at 65 per cent of the total consumption, followed by natural gas (19 per cent), and mobile fuels (16 per cent). Overall, 2019 energy expenditures across municipal operations increased by 5 per cent to ~\$2.14 million. This was primarily due to an 11 per cent increase in total electricity use, which makes up the largest portion of corporate energy expenditures (~\$1.67 million).

Chapter 5 of the 2019 Annual Report updates on key RMOW mitigation and adaptation initiatives within the CECAP for the first and second quarter of 2020. The updates demonstrate that a wide range of activities has been undertaken, but it is also clear that the strategic emphasis for mitigation initiatives continues to be transportation-sector initiatives, and for adaptation initiatives, wildfire protection. As of Q2 2020, 9 initiatives are completed, 31 are ongoing, 67 are in progress and 27 are not initiated. At the end of Q4 2019, 8 initiatives were completed, 30 ongoing, 68 in progress and 27 not yet initiated. The need to accelerate Whistler's climate action is clear, and the Climate Action Big Moves Strategy prioritizes what needs to be done in our community. The Strategy provides the guiding framework to prioritize CECAP actions, incorporate new opportunities, and align the corporate and community-wide efforts needed to achieve significant emissions reductions. In future reports, it will be the document against which progress is measured rather than the CECAP.

## **OTHER POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

Regular public reporting of both community and corporate energy and GHG emissions performance is a commitment of the Whistler Official Community Plan, the Whistler CECAP, the RMOW Carbon Neutral Operations Plan, and our Council-adopted commitments within the BC Climate Action Charter.

## **BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**

The tracking and reporting of energy consumption, expenditures and GHG emissions does not have direct budget implications beyond the dedication of staff time, and the stipend for a summer student from the University of British Columbia. The inventories themselves however do provide the basis of forecasting future energy budgets for individual Divisions, Departments and Workgroups across the organization.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION**

Similar to previous years, the 2019 Annual Report will be posted on [whistler.ca](http://whistler.ca) for public access and review. Key aspects of the data included in the 2019 Annual Report will be integrated into the [whistler.ca/monitoring](http://whistler.ca/monitoring) site and will be used to inform and update the latest draft of the Big Moves Climate strategy as well as used in community open houses and other engagements as appropriate. The corporate energy use and GHG emissions data will be used as a foundation to update the RMOW's Corporate Carbon Neutral Operations Plan and the related corporate GHG emission reduction targets.

## **SUMMARY**

The 2019 Annual Report clearly shows that Whistler is not on track to meet its target goals. The recent introduction of the Big Moves Climate Strategy will be the vehicle for more strongly pursuing actions that reduce our corporate and community emissions and will be reported on annually going forward.

Respectfully submitted,

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CLIMATE ACTION COORDINATOR

For  
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For  
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