



WHISTLER

REPORT | INFORMATION REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: November 17, 2020

REPORT: 20-113

FROM: Resort Experience

FILE: A05001

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY ENERGY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CECAP) REPORT – Q3 2020

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. 20-113 regarding quarterly progress on implementing the 2016 Community Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP).

REFERENCES

Appendix “A” – CECAP Performance Tracking – Q3 2020

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the RMOW’s progress implementing the CECAP from July through September 2020. (See Appendix A).

DISCUSSION

Background

Protecting Whistler’s natural beauty and environmental resources are a priority issues, and the municipality is committed to mitigating the impacts and restoring habitat, where possible, by careful land management and better understanding of the species that live here. As a resort community dependent on outdoor activities for its economic success and quality of life, Whistler is concerned with the issue of climate change. The RMOW regularly tracks emissions and monitors its progress on actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

For a number of years prior to adoption of the CECAP, the RMOW tracked the energy and GHG emissions performance trends for the community as well as the RMOW’s internal corporate operations and reported annually. For example, the [2019 Annual Energy and Emissions Performance Report](#) provides background on energy and emissions planning in Whistler, historical information, a review of associated targets for each section, with specific detail on 2019 energy consumption and emissions

trends at both the community and corporate scale, and insights regarding key drivers of change over time.

As directed by Council, this quarterly report summarizes implementation progress on [CECAP](#) actions during the period July 1st 2020 – September 30th 2020. The checklist of actions and their respective status is based on input provided by every department in the organization.

The intent of the CECAP Quarterly Report is to provide regular updates to energy and climate change adaptation performance across the organization and community. A significant achievement in Q3 was the wrap up of the community FireSmart program for 2020. The FireSmart program supported 10 neighborhood (strata) projects and the chipper service removed 130+ tonnes of woody vegetation from the community, servicing 200+ properties. FireSmart Assessments will continue into the winter and throughout the year. Additionally, the RMOW purchased carbon off set credits for the 2019 year from the Cheakamus Community Forest and has now maintained its carbon neutral status every year since 2010.

The RMOW increased collaboration with neighboring Sea to Sky communities and the SLRD on climate related issues. Throughout Q3, work has been underway with District of Squamish, Village of Pemberton and the Lil'wat Nation on a grant proposal for a regional expansion of the corridor Electric Vehicle charging network. With transportation emission reductions and improved transit continuing to be a priority item, further additions to the Route 10 bus schedule were implemented in September 2020. The successful high school transit pass program has been continued for a second year.

To assist with prioritizing actions that have the most impact, staff have developed a draft Big Moves strategy and it is currently being finalized with community input, and will be presented to council in the coming weeks. This will allow the RMOW and community to hone in on the priority issues affecting GHG emissions and continue to work towards reductions in a more focused way. A GHG analysis is currently underway to evaluate the RMOW fleet of vehicles, to consider financial investment vs GHG emission reduction per year and over the lifetime of the fleet. In addition to this, a feasibility study for a biomass heating system at Meadow Park Sports Centre is currently being completed.

The RMOW continues to move toward its Zero Waste goal and reduce upstream emissions. The Solid Waste Coordinator engaged with commercial stratas to help remove barriers to successful food waste diversion programs. After a temporary closure due to COVID 19, the Re-Build-It Centre and Re-Use it Centre facilities are open again.

Although work is progressing, many actions remain unchanged or yet to be initiated. With the appointment to the new RMOW Climate Action Coordinator role in 2019, the upcoming Big Moves strategy which prioritizes initiatives, and with continued hard work from existing staff and community members, increased progress is, and will continue to be made towards our overarching goals of energy and emission reduction.

See Appendix A for a complete listing of all actions, current status and comments.

Official Community Plan

Whistler's vision is to be a place where the community thrives, nature is protected, and guests are inspired. This ongoing work aims to reduce GHG emissions, remove the barriers for the community and guests to shift to lower carbon transportation, and help to achieve Whistler's climate goals. Therefore, this work is in alignment with Whistler's vision.

Goals, Objectives and Policies

The Community Energy and Climate Action Plan speaks to many goals, objectives and policies within Whistler's Official Community Plan (OCP).

10.1. Goal – Municipal decision-making is well-structured to achieve energy efficiency goals and GHG reduction targets

10.1.1. Objective – Leverage community-wide GHG reduction targets to track and motivate action.

10.1.1.6. Policy – Advance the implementation of the CECAP and ensure it is updated regularly.

10.5. Goal – Increase the resilience of Whistler's infrastructure, natural environment and socio-economic assets from the potential impacts of a changing climate.

10.5.1. Objective – Ensure that climate adaptation planning is integrated in community decision-making.

10.5.1.3. Policy – Ensure that strategic directions related to climate change risk management and climate change adaptation objectives are routinely considered in decision-making processes and well-integrated with the CECAP

Other Relevant Policies

Whistler CECAP commits to regular public reporting on progress, and quarterly reporting is a directive of Council.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The tracking and reporting of CECAP actions on a quarterly basis does not have direct budget implications beyond the dedication of staff time.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

CECAP quarterly reports will be posted on whistler.ca for public access and review, and may be used in community open houses and other engagement as appropriate. Community engagement has been occurring on other related climate work, the Big Moves Strategy, and this will inform the final strategy that will be presented to council.

SUMMARY

The RMOW continues to advance many of the actions and to liaise with other community and provincial stakeholders involved in emissions reduction and climate change adaptation. As highlighted in recent international reports and global meetings, it is imperative that we all take action to reduce our impacts on climate. The CECAP action list is broad and extensive, and staff continues to advance as many of the projects as possible, with greater focus in progress to drive more impactful outcomes in the short term through the upcoming Big Moves Strategy.

Respectfully submitted,

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