



2013 COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS
Category Worksheet

LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION

Climate Action

Name of Local Government: City of Penticton

Project/Program Title: Climate Action Planning - Milestone 4 Achieved

Project Summary Paragraph

Please provide a summary of your project/program in 150 words or less.

The City of Penticton adopted a Corporate Climate Action Plan in 2010 that identifies a number of implementation targets to be achieved in the short, medium and long term. The City's vision is to be *a vibrant, innovative, adventurous waterfront City focused on sustainability, community and economic opportunity*. The City vision created a desire, drive and priority to meet our climate action targets.

With strong direction from the City's Climate Action Advisory Committee, Milestone 4 was completed in 2013 where the City showcased its Implementation Plans and celebrated the 158 tonnes of Corporate CO2 reductions. The projects completed to reach this milestone were directed by the City's Corporate Climate Action Plan.

Project Analysis

Please answer the question in 300 words or less in 11 pt Arial font (our judges value directness and brevity). If you experience difficulty answering a particular question, consider the aspects of your program that may relate to the question and show us how they are linked. **Remember to include measurable results whenever possible.**

1. CLIMATE

Please describe how the program/project contributes to the achievement of one or more of your [Climate Action Charter](#) goals:

- i. Corporate carbon neutrality:**
- ii. Using your community energy and emissions inventory:**
- iii. Creating complete, compact, energy efficient rural and urban communities:**

The Corporate Climate Action Plan aims to reduce GHG emissions by 15% by 2015 from 2009 baseline year which is where the implementation plan comes in. From here the City established an implementation plan identifying projects with responsibilities and timelines to be implemented in the short, medium and long term.

Small actions such as lighting and boiler efficiency replacements, fleet improvements and GIS monitoring of City vehicles has resulted in corporate reductions of 12%, putting us on target to reach our first Carbon Neutral goal.

Only 2 other BC municipalities have reached milestone 4:

<http://www.fcm.ca/home/programs/partners-for-climate-protection/members/british-columbia.htm>

2. PROCESS

Please provide a brief outline of the steps involved in the program/project and the status of each step.

In early 2009, the City of Penticton awarded a contract to Stantec Consulting to create a Corporate Climate Action Plan that would guide the organization. The intention of the plan was to focus on achievable objectives in the short term and providing solutions for planning bigger projects and organizational behavioral shifts over the long term.

Once the Corporate Climate Action Plan was adopted by Council, the following budget year resulted in the creation of an environmental co-ordinator position (0.6 FTE) to deal with the implementation of the Corporate Climate Action Plan. Since the position has been created, a number of local projects have commenced and annual reporting using CARIP reporting online has been completed. The City also purchased a “smart tool” to realize what impact changes at the corporate level have occurred and what still needs to be completed to be a leading organization in this field.

3. RESULTS

Tell us how your submission addresses climate change issues in terms of reduced GHG emissions and /or supports your community to prepare for the impacts of climate change.

Since the adoption of the Corporate Climate Action Plan, corporate reductions of 12% put the City of Penticton in line to reach our 15% greenhouse gas reduction targets by 2015.

The Corporate Climate Action Plan sets a goal of also reducing the City’s corporate greenhouse emissions by 20% by 2020. The plan also revealed that approximately 56% of the City’s energy consumption and 62% of the City’s greenhouse gas production results from the operation of buildings. The plan identified the need to take action and produce results.

The City’s implementation plan is overseen by the City’s Environmental Coordinator and monthly direction and advice is provided by the City’s Climate Action Advisory Committee. This plan also provides direction for budgeting and allocation of staff resources. A close working relationship with the City’s Facilities Department has enabled a number of projects to be completed in-house, saving the organization significant costs.

With the City being a leader in this field, the ability to gather support from other local organizations to assist with achieving municipal wide community goals increases. At the table of the Climate Action Committee are representatives from Interior Health, Fortis BC, the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen and other local organizations. Sharing advice, success stories and learning from what each other has completed stands our community in good stead moving forward with preparing for the implications of climate change.

4. LEADERSHIP

How does the project reflect leadership and excellence in the advancement of climate action?

The City accomplished our objective of measuring, changing behaviour and reducing GHG emissions. We lead the way through collaboration both internally and with external stakeholders, including industry experts.

We applied our knowledge and skills where easily achievable targets were available such as accessing FortisBC grants to upgrade lighting fixtures and boilers. When a given project was outside the scope of internal skill and expertise, industry experts have been contracted to evaluate and measure things such as a life cycle cost benefit analysis to be completed by a UBC PhD candidate. These small wins over the past couple of years have created impressive momentum that will build into larger more exciting projects over the coming years.

5. ECONOMICS

a. How was the project a good use of budget and resources?

The City's Climate Action Advisory Committee is responsible for requesting budget funds from Council for the completion of the Corporate Climate Action Plan in 2010.

Gas tax funding for climate action projects has been used appropriately and direct energy saving results have been seen.

Many projects that have been implemented were driven by pooling funds from FortisBC grants, CARIP funding and solid budgeting while focusing on simple projects which deliver results in the long term.

b. How does the project encourage economic sustainability? (e.g. life cycle analysis, internalizing costs and alternative financing, economic instruments)

In an organization that needs to lead by example and also be fiscally responsible for our citizens, justifying the implementation of building upgrades for the corporation has been a simple task. Like many smaller municipalities, we own many buildings that are of an older building stock and come with aged energy systems. Decisions to upgrade existing buildings has proven a success for their long-term viability and also resulted in cost savings for the municipality.

6. ENGAGEMENT

How does the project encourage engagement? (e.g. stakeholder engagement, public participation, equity and diversity, knowledge sharing, capacity building, community identity and marketing)

Engagement of our community has been at the forefront of the Climate Action Planning for the City of Penticton. The following highlights the success of our process to date.

- Stakeholder engagement through monthly Climate Action Advisory Committee meetings inviting guests from UBCO, local governments and others to present and share ideas on relevant topics.
- Public participation at community events such as "Tap by Tap" kits distributed at Penticton's Downtown Market
- Knowledge sharing – in addition to the Committee meetings, within the organization, we use our Intranet for providing information to City of Penticton

- Staff on their roles in implementing the Corporate Climate Action Plan (like recycling programs, smart driving programs, healthy living, etc.)
- Capacity building – focused on eliminating the financial barriers by using FortisBC grants, developed Green Sustainable Policy and encourage Okanagan Valley-wide procurement for Climate Action upgrades as we are all doing about the same projects.
 - Community identity – by its very nature, Penticton is a sustainable community. Our growth potential is limited, so we must be smart in where we develop as a community. This is reflected in our OCP that promotes smart and sustainable development and encouraged the development of energy efficient buildings not only as a corporation, but in the private sector as well.
 - Marketing – Public advertisements supporting the City's green initiatives are seen on bus shelters, within the City's website and also in our monthly newsletter that is sent to over 17,000 homes with monthly utility bills.

7. INNOVATION

What makes your program/project innovative?

The following partnership and project is only one component of this project but will further enhance Penticton as leader in this field:

In March of 2012, City staff was approached by UBCO professors who were interested in developing a thesis opportunity for an Engineering PhD candidate. Their proposal was to use City facilities to develop a "Lifecycle Asset Management Tool," which can be used to monitor and adjust building controls on an ongoing basis to maximize energy efficiency. The tool can be used as a decision making aid during maintenance, repair or replacement activities; enhancing the City's ability to make informed decisions on both current and anticipated system performance. The tool will be based in common Microsoft desktop applications (Excel), meaning it can be easily used by City staff once the project is complete.

UBCO has access to funds from the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council for an estimated total of \$90,000 for the term of the research project. Fortis has also agreed to contribute funds to the project.

The end result of the proposed project — a simple, cost effective, program that can be used to manage building performance — is a much-needed tool to reduce City energy consumption. The breadth of expertise and work that will be provided to the City vis-à-vis the City's financial contribution represents excellent value.

The resulting tools and data provided from the project will allow facilities staff to continually monitor and recalibrate building controls. As data is accumulated, staff will not only be able to maintain a high level of system efficiency, but also continually identify new opportunities for building efficiency. It is expected that the savings in energy costs will well exceed the City's contribution to this project.

In addition to the tangible financial and operational benefits to the City, the project also provides valuable educational opportunities for students and researchers and an excellent partnership opportunity between the City of Penticton and UBCO.

The project offered substantial benefits to the City, with cost saving opportunities which far exceed the City's cash outlay for the project, and as a result, City Council supported this partnership in mid-2013.

8. TRANSFERABILITY

How is this program/project transferable to other local governments?

The City's Corporate Climate Action planning process has been successful because of the partnerships developed with our Climate Action Advisory Committee. The use of a committee that is made of local stakeholders that have the ability to influence change is required to make significant change. As staff at the City, we cannot do it alone and partnership with other like minded organizations not only assists with knowledge sharing, but also with gaining the support of the wider community in challenging each other to make better changes.

The partnership underway with UBCO will result in a tool that is transferable to other municipalities in B.C., North America and all over the world. In order to exceed in the realm of energy efficiency, recognizing the economic climate that exists today and the difficulty that exists for the green movement, it is important for municipalities to take a leading role in continuing with these initiatives. Even with small wins in the short term, long-term success will not be achieved if we do it any other way.

Within the organization, the City has strong partnerships with internal departments and buy-in for the climate action planning work. Buy in from all departments is required for the corporation to succeed, and this has occurred in Penticton because of strong leadership and commitment from Council, senior management and staff city-wide.

9. KNOWLEDGE SHARING

What helpful advice would you share with other communities looking to embark on a similar project?

Knowledge transfer is critical to ensuring that we do not duplicate the same projects and to ensure effective use of resources. An excellent link has been established between facilities, planning, procurement and fleet department in the City to be able to implement the plan.

10. TELL US MORE

Please share any other information you think may help us better understand your submission.

The following additional initiatives and projects have been completed in order to implement the Corporate Climate Action Plan.

- LED street lighting on Lakeshore Drive which meet efficiency and safety needs while enhancing community walking paths;
- Replacement of 97 incandescent exit signs with LED resulting in significant greenhouse gas reductions based on being lit 24 hours a day;
- Green Procurement Policy which focuses on Life Cycle Cost Analysis and end-of-life disposal;

- Create a corporate-wide battery recycling drop-off point and replaced single-use batteries with 400+ charges lithium-ion rechargeables.
- Council supported a partnership between UBCO, FortisBC and City for a PhD candidate who will evaluate City facilities and create a user friendly software to perform Life Cycle Cost Analysis;
- Promoting energy efficiency among staff using Intranet including Smart-Driver Training;
- Installed GPS units on City fleet resulting in 10% fuel reduction in first six months;
- City Parks installed central irrigation control system to monitor;
- Upgraded Penticton Art Gallery boiler and controls;
- Advanced Waste Water Treatment Plant replaced 26 high-pressure sodium fixtures with high output fluorescent fixtures as well as LED wall packs;
- Employee prompts to reduce consumption was realized at the Penticton Water Treatment Plant where natural gas consumption was reduced by nearly 30% (the 12-month period between July 2011 and July 2012) simply by reconsidering which rooms to heat.
- Smart-tool software that aggregates and reports on GHG emissions;
- RFPs are tendered to ensure expeditious installation of GHG reducing fixtures in order to reap the rewards sooner rather than later.
- Completion of a Downtown Revitalization Plan that identified the downtown as an area for compact growth, as opposed to development in the surrounding areas of Penticton.