Municipal and Provincial Collaboration on Climate Action:

The BC Experience

June 12, 2015

Ben Finkelstein
Climate Action Secretariat
Ministry of Environment

Ted Sheldon
Electricity and Alternative Energy
Ministry of Energy and Mines
British Columbia Communities

1. Setting the table on climate
2. Local Government Act
3. Climate Action Charter
4. Community Energy and Emissions Inventory
5. Discussion
British Columbia Communities

- 4.6 m population
- 95 million ha
- 29 Regional Districts
- 190 local governments
- 200 First Nations
In the beginning...

- Premier’s 2007 Throne Speech
- Climate Action Plan
- Early Ambassadors
  - Premier’s Climate Action Team
  - Citizen’s Conservation Council on Climate Action
- Lead Organizations
  - Climate Action Secretariat
  - *Green Communities Committee – Province + Union of BC Municipalities*
- Legislation, Policies and Programs:
  - Greenhouse Gas Targets Reductions Act
  - Carbon Neutral Public Sector
  - LiveSmart BC
  - Local Government (Green Communities) Act
  - Adaptation Strategy
Climate Action Secretariat

• “Provides a whole-of-government approach to achieving BC’s emission reduction targets, adapting to the impacts of climate change and driving the low carbon economy.”

• Climate Action Plan
  ◦ Revenue neutral carbon tax
  ◦ Intergovernmental partnerships
  ◦ Carbon neutral government
  ◦ LiveSmart BC
  ◦ Adaptation strategy
  ◦ Climate Action Charter
  ◦ Actions in every sector
  ◦ Pacific institute for Climate Solutions
Every Sector

Working groups established

- Transportation
- Buildings
- Waste
- Agriculture
- Industry
- Energy
- Forestry
New Legislation…to meet goals

- The Greenhouse Gas Reductions Targets Act:
  - 6% by 2012
  - 12% by 2016
- The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target Acts (incl)
  - Cap and Trade
  - Vehicle Emissions Standards
  - Emissions Standards
  - Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Requirements
- The 2008 Utilities Commission Amendment Act
- The 2008 Local Government (Green Communities)
- Statutes Amendment Act The Carbon Tax Act
Local Government Act I

- Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act – Bill 27. May 2008
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target Setting for Municipalities and Regional Districts
  - Official Community Plans
  - Regional Growth Strategies
Local Government Act II Tools

- Official Community Plans (OCPs), zoning to achieve complete compact communities
- Density Bonusing
- Development Permit Areas for Climate Action
- Revitalization Tax Exemptions
- Development Costs Charges
  - Not payable for units 29 sq. m. or less
  - Lower for compact dense development
Green Communities Committee
GCC

- The Province of British Columbia and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM):
- “To develop strategies, actions, supports and incentives to implement the Climate Action Charter.”
- Working Groups:
  - Carbon Neutral Working Group
  - Small Communities Strategies and Actions
  - Urban Strategies and Actions
- [www.toolkit.bc.ca](http://www.toolkit.bc.ca)
British Columbia Climate Action Charter

- Voluntary
- 181 / 190 local governments signatories
- Leadership / competition / learning
Climate Action Charter commitments

- Being carbon neutral in respect of their operations
- Measuring and reporting on their community’s GHG emission profile (Community Energy Emissions Inventory - CEEI)
- Creating complete, compact, more energy efficient rural and urban communities
Recognition Program

UBCM Excellence Awards for Climate Action

GCC Recognition Program
• Level 1 - Progress on Charter Commitments
• Level 2 - Measurement
• Level 3 - Achievement of Carbon Neutrality
Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program

- 168 final reports submitted
- 144 are measuring corporate emissions
- Over 35 are reporting as carbon neutral
- Local governments overall reduced their corporate emissions by 37%
- Carbon tax / grant program
Community Energy and Emissions Inventories

CEEIs

Purpose: to provide a provincial solution for tracking and reporting energy and greenhouse gas (ghg) emission indicators at a community (municipal or regional district) level

**Core Indicators**
- Buildings
- Transportation
- Solid Waste

**Supporting Indicators**
- Housing Type
- Commute Mode
- Commute Distance
- Residential Density
- Proximity to Transit

http://toolkit.bc.ca/ceei
Community Energy and Emissions Modelling
CEEM

Community Energy and Emissions Modelling comprise the tools, approaches and partnerships necessary to consider fundamental greenhouse gas implications of future land use development, energy conservation, waste management, and related policy decisions at a community-scale.

http://www.toolkit.bc.ca/ceem - e.g., modelling comparison matrix
CEEPs across Canada: >50% of BC LG’s with 75% of population…and growing
101 BC CEEPs

% of local governments in each region of BC with at least one renewable energy action

- **Planned**
- **Reported**
- **Funded**

Renewable energy types with the most momentum:

- **Building-scale heating**
  - Local Biomass
  - Geo-exchange
  - Waste Heat Recovery
- **District Heating**
Collaborations

- Quality Urban Systems of Tomorrow (QUEST) BC Caucus
- Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Conference
- Green Communities Committee Climate Action Toolkit
- Citizens' Conservation Council
- BC Mayor's Climate Action Leadership Council
- Building Sustainable Communities (BSC) Conference
- Community Energy Association
- University of BC Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning
- BC Hydro Community Energy Managers
- FCM/ICLEI Partners in Climate Protection
- FBC Smart Planning for Communities
- Carbon Neutral Kootenays
- CEEI Working Group and CEEM Community of Practice
- LiveSmart Leaders Community
- Metro Vancouver REAC Subcommittee
- Remote Communities Energy (RCE) Network
- CEEPs + ICSPs + RGSs
- University of BC Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning
## Tools and Resources

### Tools
- SMARTTool
- Community Energy & Emissions Inventories
- Community Energy & Emissions Modelling
- Green Community Committee project profiles
- Facility GHG Emission Reports

### Resources
- Becoming Carbon Neutral
- Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program
- Methodology for quantifying GHG emissions
- Preparing for Climate Change

### Platforms
- Toolkit.bc.ca
- Retooling.ca
- Pando.sc
- Smartplanningbc.ca
- Pacificclimate.org
- fcm.ca – Partners in Climate Protection - PCP
- CivicInfo.bc.ca
Lessons Learned

• For the Better
  ◦ The Carbon Tax – start small and build
  ◦ Encourage partnerships of all kinds
  ◦ Balance legislation with ongoing support

• Areas for Improvement
  ◦ Coordinating support for community-level mitigation and adaptation
  ◦ Mandate stronger interconnections and working relationships between key LG support agencies
  ◦ Focus attention on implementation

• Uncertain
  ◦ Carbon Tax - stay ‘revenue neutral’ or direct to GHG reductions?
  ◦ The right mix of LG operations and Community-wide?
Lessons themes

- **ENABLING – CEEI**
- **MOTIVATING**
  - GHG reduction targets
  - Climate Action Charter
- **FUNDING.** Creative ways to focus funding on energy efficiency conservation
- **CONNECTING - PEER TO PEER**
  - Local government staff, elected officials, professional associations. Community of practices, working groups
Finally… use and leverage other programs!
Discussion

Ben.Finkelstein@gov.bc.ca
Manager
Communities and Built Environment
Climate Action Secretariat
250.356.7847

Ted.Sheldon@gov.bc.ca
Senior Policy Advisor
Alternative Energy Branch
Ministry of Energy and Mines
250.356.1507