



NEWS RELEASE

Abbotsford endorses new strategy to ‘green’ vehicle fleet

ABBOTSFORD – June 14, 2019: On Monday June 10, 2019, Abbotsford City Council endorsed an ambitious new Green Fleet Strategy for all City of Abbotsford vehicles, announced Mayor Henry Braun today.

The City, including the Abbotsford Police Department and Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service, has a current fleet of over 600 light and heavy-duty vehicles that are primarily powered by fossil fuels. The City of Abbotsford’s Official Community Plan sets clear community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets: 20% per capita by the year 2025 and 40% per capita by the year 2040, against 2007 emission levels. Efforts to reduce the City’s corporate GHG emissions are guided by these targets, and by the City’s commitments under the BC Climate Action Charter.

The City of Abbotsford’s fleet emissions account for 52% of all corporate emissions. In order to lower the City’s GHG emissions, the Green Fleet Strategy will guide fleet renewal and replacement planning, based on alternate fuel technology and environmentally conscious practices, to work towards realizing GHG reduction targets for the corporate fleet.

As part of these efforts, staff will continue to monitor technological advancements and identify opportunities for integration of renewable natural gas (RNG) and renewable diesel, all of which would significantly reduce fleet emissions and move the City more quickly towards the targets.

The Green Fleet Strategy project was completed with grant funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ *Municipalities for Climate Innovation* Program. The grant contributed \$57,600 toward the total project budget of \$70,000. An additional funding contribution of \$12,000 was made by Fraser Valley Regional District.

The budget for annual fleet replacement works is included in the approved 2019-2023 Financial Plan. Annual Fleet replacement plans will be evaluated for potential alternate fuel options and funding contribution, to offset additional capital cost required for alternate fuel options, will be requested from City’s Climate Action Reserve Fund.

Background:

The impetus for community and corporate climate action comes from several levels: globally through the Paris Agreement to limit global temperature increase this century to well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels; federally through the Pan-Canadian Framework for Clean Growth and Climate Change and Canada’s pledge to reduce emissions 30% by 2030, as well as the City’s participation in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Partners for Climate Protection Program; and provincially through the new Clean BC Plan, as well as the BC Climate Action Charter which commits local governments to move towards carbon neutrality in corporate operations and create more compact, energy efficient communities.

The City’s OCP contains short and long-term GHG emission reduction targets and a number of policies supporting those targets, and the City continues to be guided by the Community Sustainability Strategy. Prior

related policies approved by Council relating to corporate energy and emissions include the Corporate Energy Policy (C001-03) and Climate Action Reserve Fund (CARF) Management Policy (C-005-05), both of which guide the City's energy reduction investments.

While only a small portion of the overall Abbotsford community-wide GHG emissions, the City's corporate emissions are important to track and reduce over time; this tracking also meets provincial requirements under the BC Climate Action Charter. Total corporate GHG emissions in 2016 were 5,828 tonnes CO_{2e}; of this, the corporate fleet contributed 2,676 tonnes, or 46%. The City has made progress in recent years in reducing corporate energy usage and GHG emissions, with a particular focus on City facilities.

Quotes:

"The City of Abbotsford is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and working to concretely address our environmental impact. Climate change is a responsibility of all local governments and residents, and I'm pleased that the Green Fleet strategy addresses both sustainability and cost savings simultaneously."

Henry Braun
Mayor, City of Abbotsford

Associated Links:

Abbotsford Green Fleet Strategy: <https://abbotsford.civicweb.net/document/55530>

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