

To: CAO for the Regional and Corporate Services Committee
From: Micha Gutmanis, Environmental Services Coordinator

Date: 2019-10-08
File No: 9010-25-003

Subject: Energy Management Assessment Pilot

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board direct staff to participate in BC Hydro's Energy Management Assessment Pilot program;

AND THAT Fraser Valley Regional use the Energy Management Assessment data for the development of a corporate Strategic Energy Management Plan with an aim to increase energy efficiency, reduce fuel costs, and lower greenhouse gas emissions of its corporate buildings.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Environmental Stewardship
Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

PRIORITIES

Priority #2 Air & Water Quality

BACKGROUND

As a signatory to the British Columbia Climate Action Charter, the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) has committed to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in order to minimize the FVRD's impact on global climate change.

The FVRD's corporate greenhouse gas emissions in 2018 were 624 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, an 11% decrease from 2017. This is an exciting and encouraging trend that shows progress is being made to achieving carbon neutrality. The FVRD is looking to continue this trend through a number of initiatives, including energy conservation.

Demand side energy management is a method of reducing energy demand by focusing on the modification of consumer demand for energy through incentives, rebates, and energy assessments. BC Hydro has selected eleven commercial customers to pilot an Energy Management Assessment program to reduce energy demand. The FVRD was fortunate to have been selected to participate in this pilot program.

DISCUSSION

The Energy Management Assessment includes a free on-site facilitated session with a BC Hydro Energy Advisor to evaluate energy efficiency of FVRD facilities. At the end of the session, the FVRD will receive a report outlining energy performance and it will include a list of resources and incentives available to

increase building efficiencies and lower energy consumption. The FVRD has 78 different BC Hydro accounts, but 59% of electricity use is attributed to only a handful of sites. The assessment will focus on key buildings that have opportunities for energy efficiency upgrades, but the sites to be included have not yet been confirmed. Further details such as sites included and timelines for the study will be finalized after an in-person meeting with the BC Hydro Energy Advisor.

Following the completion of the assessment, the Energy Advisor will work with FVRD staff to create a corporate FVRD Strategic Energy Management Plan that will determine anticipated energy savings, identify feasible greenhouse gas reduction targets, and confirm priority projects for implementation. This document will serve to update the FVRD's 2009 Corporate Energy Management Plan.

A follow-up memorandum will be presented to the Board with the final Strategic Energy Management Plan upon its expected completion in 2020.

COST

Energy assessments are typically paid studies carried out by consultants, but the FVRD is receiving this Energy Management Assessment free of charge as part of BC Hydro's pilot program. Staff time will be required to work with the Energy Advisor to create the Corporate Strategic Energy Management Plan following completion of the assessment. It is anticipated that implementation of energy efficiency projects identified in the plan will be conducted using annual gas tax rebates collected through the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program or other grant funding that becomes available.

CONCLUSION

This Energy Management Assessment and subsequent Strategic Energy Management Plan sets the FVRD on a path to update its 2009 Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Plan and provides a benchmark for keeping track of how energy efficiency projects affect the FVRD's energy consumption.

The energy savings identified in this pilot will lead to lower energy costs for the FVRD. Both the energy assessment and the Strategic Energy Management Plan will allow for the FVRD to prioritize energy efficiency upgrades and projects according to the greatest value and highest anticipated greenhouse gas emission reductions.

COMMENTS BY:

Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services

Reviewed and supported.

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported.

