

To: CAO for the Fraser Valley Regional District Board
From: Melissa Geddert, Planner 1

Date: 2019-10-22
File No: 6430-30-013

Subject: Fraser Valley Regional District Clean Economy Study – Phase Two Initiative

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board support the proposed work plan for phase two of the Fraser Valley Regional District clean economy initiative;

AND THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District engage the economic development agencies of Fraser Valley Regional District member municipalities and other key stakeholders for the purpose of:

- These agencies and stakeholders directing the development of, and participating in, a Fraser Valley-specific event at the Globe Forum 2020;
- Determining and prioritizing clean economy opportunities that align best with the region's strengths and stakeholder interest to present at the Forum.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Environmental Stewardship
Foster a Strong & Diverse Economy
Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

BACKGROUND

In 2018, the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) engaged the Delphi Group to undertake research and analysis to better understand the existing clean economy sectors in the Fraser Valley and to identify growth opportunities related to the region's clean economy. The FVRD undertook this study to monitor the region's economy per the current Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) and to inform the RGS update. The desired outcomes of the study were to:

- Develop strategies to grow the clean economy in the region
- Support the Regional Growth Strategy
- Identify opportunities for strategic partnerships within the region's clean economy

The results of the FVRD Clean Economy Study align with the desired outcomes and establish an overarching framework for the region's clean economy with sector-specific opportunities.

These are defined as:

1. **Sustainable Resource and Ecosystem Management:** Focusing on the region's sustainable industry practices and clean technologies for the agriculture and other resource sectors waste management / recycling, waste-to-resource / circular economy opportunities, and the restoration of air, water, and land ecosystems.

2. **Green and Sustainable Transportation:** Including electric and autonomous vehicles, public transit, alternative fuels, smart transportation systems and technologies, and related integrated land use planning.

3. **Green and High-Performance Buildings:** Including products, services, and building materials related to energy efficient and high-performance building design, construction, renovation, and operations such as building envelope products, mechanical systems, lighting and control systems, and other products.

4. **Renewable Energy Supply and Storage:** Including wind, solar, geothermal, hydro, district energy, waste heat to power, anaerobic digestion, as well as energy storage / battery technology, smart grid, and related energy management technologies.

5. **Knowledge and Innovation:** Concentrating on educational institutions for workforce skills development, investment, research and development, and centers of excellence that build on the knowledge base of the clean economy.



Figure 1 - Framework for clean economy in the Fraser Valley

The key findings and recommendations of the study were delivered by Delphi Group in the *FVRD Clean Economy Study* summary document and was presented to the FVRD Board at their meeting on June 25, 2019. The summary is designed to support local governments and other stakeholders in the region and is in alignment with the FVRD's Regional Growth Strategy. The report identifies a broad menu of clean economy opportunities, in line with emerging trends and policy drivers in British Columbia. The presentation was well received and the Board requested staff advance the information presented in the study and further explore the highest priority opportunities for growing the region's clean economy.

DISCUSSION

The FVRD does not have an economic development function and is providing this opportunity to our partners to support their economic development efforts. It is therefore critical for local economic development stakeholders to be involved in, and provide direction to, this initiative moving forward.

The *Clean Economy Study* confirms the Fraser Valley has a solid foundation and set of underlying strengths to grow the region's clean economy. Under the direction of the Board, and to continue building on the momentum of the project, the FVRD has initiated a second phase of the clean economy study. The FVRD has engaged Delphi Group to facilitate phase two of the clean economy initiative which will support the region's efforts in growing the clean economy by identifying high priority opportunities with the greatest chance for success in order to increase climate resiliency and decrease greenhouse gas (GHG emissions), while driving clean economy growth, creating jobs, and attracting investment to the region. Renewable energy opportunities will focus on wind, solar, geothermal, hydro, anaerobic digestion, and other non-incineration technologies.

Desired outcomes for the phase two initiative include:

- Prioritization of clean economy opportunities
- Refine focus of regional needs and challenges
- Coordinate clean economy opportunity areas with investment attraction and partnership development.

Building on the phase one study *Clean Economy in the FVRD*, phase two will prioritize and identify the top clean economy opportunities for the Fraser Valley region, and promote these priorities through a Fraser Valley specific event. Leveraging the upcoming International GLOBE Forum 2020, taking place in Vancouver from February 10-13, Delphi group will help promote the region and related clean economy opportunities. The Delphi Group is associated with the international GLOBE forum, an annual business summit focussed on the clean economy, and is providing an opportunity to create a Fraser Valley specific event. This event is intended to support local efforts in growing the region's clean economy by aligning investment with opportunity areas in the Fraser Valley.

Working within the framework of the *FVRD Clean Economy Study*, phase two will seek to convene local stakeholders to further refine the opportunities and specific immediate areas of need / key challenges, as well as identify potential partners, solution providers and investors. Collaboration with economic development agencies and other stakeholders is instrumental for the success of growing the region's clean economy. As part of this next phase, FVRD staff is reaching out to the local economic development agencies and other stakeholders to gauge the level of support and interest in participating. These organizations include, but are not limited to:

- Sto:lo Community Futures
- CAED – City of Abbotsford Economic Development
- CEPCO – Chilliwack Economic Partners Corporation
- District of Mission Economic Development

- District of Kent – Development Services
- AdvantageHOPE –District of Hope Business and Development Society
- Village of Harrison Hot Springs – Development Services
- University of the Fraser Valley (UFV)

The objectives of the project are:

- 1) **Refine project scope and work plan** - The Consultant will convene a meeting with the FVRD and other key partners as determined by the FVRD to refine the project scope and budget, finalize timing, and develop a work plan, including confirming additional key stakeholders and targeted partners to engage.
- 2) **Stakeholder Engagement** - The Consultant will work with the FVRD to facilitate meetings and/or calls with key stakeholders and potential partners in the region who can support the prioritization of the clean economy opportunities and help to further refine the focus of the regional needs, challenges, and opportunities. Based on the discussion and feedback received, the Consultant will evaluate the clean economy opportunities by using criteria based on stakeholder advice and input from FVRD. The outcome will identify the top 3 to 5 clean economy opportunities or challenges that will be further refined and promoted, and summarized in a report.
- 3) **Leverage the GLOBE Forum 2020 to promote the Fraser Valley Opportunities** – The Consultant will plan and host a Fraser Valley specific event at the GLOBE Forum 2020. The opportunities identified by regional stakeholders will be presented to a diverse audience at the GLOBE Forum, promoting the region’s economic opportunities and raising the level of understanding on the need and to work collectively to advance the clean economy. The consultant will coordinate curated one-on-one meetings with FVRD stakeholders and incoming global delegates.
- 4) **GLOBE 2020 debrief and summary report** - following the GLOBE Forum, the Consultant will summarize key takeaways and feedback from the event and outline the next steps and future priorities based on the outcomes and discussions at the event. The Consultant will deliver a summary report with an overview of the results, connections that were made, and recommended next steps. The draft of this report will be sent to FVRD and brought back to the Regional and Corporate Services Committee (RACS) for review and comment before it is finalized.

COST

As allocated in the 2019 budget for a cost of \$35,000.

CONCLUSION

Phase two of the clean economy initiative brings forward practical and efficient opportunities to advance the region's economy in a manner that also moves the region forward in promoting livable, healthy and resilient communities. This initiative purposes to develop the opportunities identified in the *Fraser Valley Regional District Clean Economy Study* while tackling some of the existing challenges by facilitating partnerships with key stakeholders to realize both short-term successes and long-term sustainable growth. Feedback and participation from regional stakeholders is key for this initiative to move forward and will be used to identify and prioritize a strategic and targeted set of clean economy opportunities to present at the GLOBE Forum 2020. Engaging the Delphi Group and leveraging their experience in investment attraction and connection with the GLOBE Series investor network will support the region's economic development and related clean economy growth objectives, advancing the FVRD forward in climate action.

Additional information about the GLOBE Forum can be found at <https://www.globeseries.com/forum/>

COMMENTS BY:

Alison Stewart, Manager of Strategic Planning

Reviewed and Supported

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.