

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee

Date: 2020-01-14

From: Melissa Geddert, Planner I

File No: 6430-30-013

Subject: FVRD Clean Economy Resource Guide and Globe 2020 update

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board receive the "*Clean Economy in the Fraser Valley: Resource Guide*" document;

AND THAT a formal invitation to the February 11, 2020 "*Fraser Valley Spotlight Session*" at GLOBE Forum 2020 be extended to the Fraser Valley Regional District Board members and mayors and council members of the Fraser Valley Regional District's member municipalities.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Environmental Stewardship

Foster a Strong & Diverse Economy

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

BACKGROUND

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) Clean Economy Study, presented to the FVRD Board in June 2019, identifies a broad menu of clean economy opportunities in the Region which align with emerging trends and policy drivers in British Columbia. The findings of the study are presented in the *FVRD Clean Economy Study Final Report*, and are intended to provide the FVRD, local governments, First Nations and other regional stakeholders with an understanding of clean economy sector opportunities that build upon the Region's existing economic strengths. The "*Clean Economy in the Fraser Valley: Resource Guide*" companion document is based on the contents of the final report and is intended to serve as a valuable tool in supporting the clean economy opportunities highlighted.

As directed by the Board, the FVRD has been working with local economic development agencies, Sto:lo Community Futures and key stakeholders to promote clean economy opportunities related to the region's strengths. Identified community initiatives, opportunities and priorities will be presented at a Fraser Valley specific event at the GLOBE 2020 forum on the morning of February 11, 2020. Unfortunately this is the same day as the Regional and Corporate Services Committee meeting, but the timing of the event will take advantage of the GLOBE 2020's "BC Day".

DISCUSSION

Clean Economy Resource Guide

The Clean Economy Resource Guide (appendix A) is a companion to the *FVRD Clean Economy Study Final Report* prepared by the Delphi Group in 2019. The study identifies the following five sectors as opportunity areas within the Regional economy:

- 1) sustainable resource and ecosystem management
- 2) green and sustainable transportation
- 3) green and high-performance buildings
- 4) renewable energy supply and storage
- 5) knowledge and innovation

The Resource Guide outlines the existing clean economy sectors in the region, opportunities for their future growth, key stakeholders and economic trends and government policy that can be leveraged in their development. It serves as a readily accessible reference for businesses, governments, First Nations and other stakeholders in the Region looking to advance clean economic opportunities in the Fraser Valley.

GLOBE 2020 Forum: Fraser Valley Spotlight Session – February 11, 2020

Community and regional initiatives, opportunities and priorities will be presented at a Fraser Valley specific event at the GLOBE 2020 forum on the morning (9:00 am-11:30 am) of **February 11, 2020** at the Vancouver Convention Centre West Building. There is no cost to attend the *Spotlight on the Fraser Valley* session but registration will be required to access the meeting room. Registration to the *Spotlight* event **will not** provide access to the full conference. Those wishing to attend the broader GLOBE 2020 event will need to separately register and pay as a conference delegate (at a discounted rate). Full costs and other information can be found at: <https://www.globeseries.com/forum/register>.

The special session will put a spotlight on the Fraser Valley as a place to live, work and invest. The clean economy opportunity areas include: green building and low-impact development, renewable power and RNG project development, water technology/infrastructure, smart mobility/low-carbon transportation, agri-tech, and circular/bio-economy innovation. The session will also include time for networking with international cleantech companies, investors, and partners from around the world who will be in Vancouver for GLOBE 2020. 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.

Success of this project is dependent on the participation of local economic development stakeholders, as the FVRD does not have an economic development function. Staff have collaborated on organizing the initiative with Sto:lo Community Futures, City of Abbotsford Economic Development (CAED), District of Mission Economic Development, Harrison Hot Springs Community Development Services, and Advantage Hope. Not all local governments or agencies were able to participate given scheduling conflicts or resource challenges, but efforts will be made to ensure all local interests are represented.

The agencies and stakeholders involved are helping to direct the development of, and where possible, participating in, the themes and format of the panel discussion. In addition to local government and Sto:lo Community Futures representatives, University of the Fraser Valley and the agricultural related clean tech sector will be represented through Dr. Lenore Newman and XLRator, the largest tech hub in the Fraser Valley, will discuss the exciting innovations taking place in the region.

Planning for the event is ongoing.

COST

- Cost of the Fraser Valley Spotlight Event is free to attend but registration is required.
- This event is part of phase two of the Clean Economy Initiative has been allocated in the 2019 and 2020 budget for a cost of \$35,000.

CONCLUSION

The resource guide will be made available to participants attending the Fraser Valley Spotlight Session at the GLOBE Forum 2020.

Save the date: February 11, 2020 9:00-11:30 am. Please contact Deanne Bozek (dbozek@fvrd.ca) to register for the *Spotlight on the Fraser Valley* event by January 21, 2020.

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: No further financial comments.

Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer: Reviewed and supported.