

**Peace River Regional District  
REPORT**

To: Peace River Regional District Board  
From: Peace Region Climate Change Task Group  
Date: January 21, 2010  
RE: Recommendations from meeting of January 20, 2010

---

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Peace Region Climate Change Task Group recommend to the Regional Board inclusion of \$45,000 in the 2010 PRRD budget for a feasibility study to investigate the potential for a “Regional Community Energy Partnership” that can:**

- 1. Enhance regional capacity for improving energy efficiency and renewable energy use;**
- 2. Become a mechanism for investing in carbon offsets within the region.**

The report considered by the Task Group is attached for information. In 2010, all local governments in the PRRD will have completed both, corporate energy plans and community energy plans. This will have been done to meet obligations of Bill 27 (2008) to include GHG reduction targets in OCPs, and participation in the BC Climate Action Charter to achieve carbon neutral operations by 2012.

As the information is just recently becoming available in aggregate, it appears that in order to achieve carbon neutral operations, the combined expense for all local governments in the PRRD to purchase carbon offsets will be in the range of \$250,000 per year. This is an expense that will increase over time as operations grow.

The essence of the proposal is to research the opportunity to invest a required expense into the region rather than seeking offsets outside the region. The benefit is keeping the funds in the region and improving community energy efficiency.

---

January 28, 2010

**Peace River Regional District  
Memorandum**

To: Peace Region Climate Change Task Group  
From: Bruce Simard, General Manager of Development Services  
Date: January 14, 2010

RE: Proposed Feasibility Study for Regional Community Energy  
Partnership

---

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Peace Region Climate Change Task Group recommend to the Regional Board inclusion of \$45,000 in the 2010 PRRD budget for a feasibility study to investigate the potential for a “Regional Community Energy Partnership” that can:**

- 1. enhance regional capacity for improving energy efficiency and renewable energy use;**
- 2. become a mechanism for investing in carbon offsets within the region.**

**BACKGROUND**

- In the spring of 2009 Sci-Tech North in partnership with the PRRD held a “Climate Action Collaborative Workshop” in Fort St John. Alex Boston of HB Lanarc facilitated the day long session. The executive summary is attached with this report and a full copy of the report has also been provided.
- In November 2009 the City of Dawson Creek completed a draft report for a “Proposed Local Improvement Charges Pilot Program”. See introduction included and full copy has also been distributed.
- In the Fall 2009 the City of Fort St John secured agreement with BC Hydro for the recruitment of an Energy Manager.
- In 2009 the PRRD in partnership with Pouce Coupe, Chetwynd, Taylor, and Tumbler Ridge engaged Sheltair (now Stantec) to prepare: 1) corporate energy plans to meet BC Climate Action Charter obligations; and 2) community energy plans to meet Bill 27 requirements for setting targets to reduce GHGs. This work should complete in Spring 2010.
- Fort St John, Dawson Creek and Hudson’s Hope have also completed work for corporate and community energy plans.
- Likely others I don’t know about.

**DISCUSSION**

As can be seen, there are a number of initiatives and ideas being considered and all local governments in the PRRD will be ready in 2010/2011 to consider some form of implementation. Following from these initiatives and referring to the TOR for the Climate Change Task Group that emphasizes considering

---

January 28, 2010

opportunities for collaborative work this proposal for a feasibility study into the potential for a “*Regional Community Energy Partnership*” is made:

**“Regional Community Energy Partnership” Concept**

- To supplement/complement member PRRD local governments in the implementation of GHG, energy efficiency, and energy management initiatives.
- To combine efforts were practical, to achieve economy of scale and benefit that would not otherwise be achievable for residents of the region.
- To enable a wide spectrum of participation ie. local government, first nations, stakeholders, stemming from the idea of a Council of Mayors, Chairs and Chiefs.
- To consider a regional program for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements (similar to Dawson Creek proposal) that can tap into the vast regional industrial assessment base, among any other identified revenue sources.
- To consider optional delivery mechanisms that could include:
  - Delivery by PRRD
  - Delivery the existing economic development commissions (NP EDC, SP EDC, Chetwynd EDC)
  - Stand alone Commission
  - Non-profit Society
- In recognition that each local government will need to purchase carbon offsets to become carbon neutral, investigate potential for such a program to perform as a regional mechanism for investing in regional energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives that could provide a means to keep carbon offset dollars in the region.

This is an idea in very general form for discussion purposes and not intended to supersede the actions of any particular local government.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Suggested budget of \$45,000 to engage a consultant to perform a feasibility analysis in 2010. Within the “Regional District Development” function of the PRRD, these funds would be raise by requisition based on assessment apportionment.

**CONCLUSION**

The challenge is on to become carbon neutral by 2012. All local governments are investing in mitigation measures to reduce their carbon footprint as much as possible. However, to some extent, mitigation will never be sufficient get to a carbon neutral position and there will be a need to purchase carbon offsets. The essence of this proposal is to use the power of our assessment base, to re-invest in regional initiatives that support regional businesses and residents, while also creating carbon offset credits to achieve carbon neutral operations. The primary beneficiaries are the regional residents.