



DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS

BYLAW NO. 324

A BYLAW TO AMEND HIGHLANDS OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN BYLAW NO. 277, 2007

The Council of the District of Highlands in open meeting assembled enacts as follows:

1. "District of Highlands Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 277, 2007 is amended as follows:
 - (a) Replacing the existing Chapter 11 with the attached Schedule "A" *Chapter 11 – Greenhouse Gas Reduction*, and replace the heading of the existing Chapter 11 with *Chapter 12 – Plan Implementation*."
2. This bylaw may be cited as "Highlands Official Community Plan Bylaw, Amendment No. 1, (Greenhouse Gas Reduction) Bylaw No. 324, 2010"

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 17th DAY OF MAY, 2010

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 17th DAY OF MAY, 2010

PUBLIC HEARING HELD THIS DAY OF 2010

READ A THIRD TIME THIS DAY OF 2010

ADOPTED THIS DAY OF 2010

MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICER

Schedule A

Chapter 11 – Greenhouse Gas Reduction

In 2008 the Local Government Act was amended to require local governments to establish policies, targets and actions for greenhouse gas reduction. The six main greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted are: Carbon dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), Nitrous oxide (N₂O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and Sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆). For simplicity, the term for all greenhouse gases considered together is carbon dioxide equivalents, usually measured in tonnes (t CO₂e). The overwhelming majority of greenhouse gases emitted by activities in the Highlands is emitted by transportation.

The District encourages and supports conservation in individual transportation choices, but has limited ability within its own policy sphere to reduce total transportation emissions attributable to the District. Reduction of transportation emissions is expected to result from the implementation of progressive Regional and Provincial transportation policies, and the District's support of those policies. The District does have a significant role to play in GHG reduction where land use planning affects transportation.

District policies can have significant positive impact on building emissions, but this category makes up a much smaller proportion of the total emissions currently attributable to the Highlands. The Highlands supports regional sustainability and overall GHG reduction through maintenance of its parks and green space, and through its desire to remain a rural community. This vision underlies many of the recommendations of the 2009 Sustainability Task Force Report. Given these circumstances the District wishes to be 'aspirational,' but realistic in its community based GHG reduction Targets.

The District of Highlands is also a signatory, along with the large majority of BC local governments, of the Climate Action Charter. This Charter includes a commitment to be *carbon neutral* by 2012. This means that local government operation emissions such as administration, inspection and fire services need to be inventoried. These emissions would then be offset, by putting a dollar equivalent into greenhouse gas reduction activities through a third party, such as the Pacific Carbon Trust, a provincial crown corporation with a mandate to engage in greenhouse gas reduction activities within BC.

General Policies

1. Encourage and promote individual and community based efforts to reduce transportation related emissions originating from the Highlands.
2. Provide information regarding wise water and energy use and connections to incentive programs.
3. Explore the idea of Net Zero Zones (net zero energy, water and waste).
4. Consider GHG emissions in decisions with the aid of a sustainability appraisal form or checklist.
5. Develop policies to promote energy and water conservation.
6. Encourage the elimination of the use of heating oil in the Highlands.

Local Government Operations Policies

1. Apply the principles of avoid, reduce, replace and offset when considering GHG reductions in corporate operations.
2. Increase percentage of biodiesel in the six municipal diesel fuel vehicles, based on consideration of all season safety and availability at a reasonable cost.

Targets

Reduce total per capita GHG emissions from the Highlands by the following amounts using the CEEI 2007, and the 2007 District population estimate as the baseline:

1. 20% by 2020;
2. 60 % by 2050.

Actions

1. Starting in 2010, engage the community in sustainability planning based on the work of the 2009 Sustainability Task Force in order to better refine policies, targets and actions regarding greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction and address policy issues identified in the 2010 corporate strategic plan.
2. Establish a development permit area for objectives to promote all of the following: energy conservation, water conservation, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.