

May 19, 2021

File: 5280-01

Chair and Directors
Regional District Board

Re: Endorsement request - Help Cities Lead.

I request your support for the recently launched Help Cities Lead Campaign. Help Cities Lead is an education and awareness campaign to accelerate building decarbonization through collaboration between the Province of British Columbia and local governments. The campaign is led by Climate Caucus and supported by more than 30 local governments from Kitimat to Metro Vancouver, with more joining each week.

On behalf of the Steering Committee for Help Cities Lead I ask that the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board of Directors:

- endorse the Help Cities Lead campaign; and
- commit to sending a letter of support to the Hon. Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Hon. George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, the Hon. Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance, the Hon. Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy Mines and Low Carbon Innovation and Hon. David Eby, Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Housing

Allowing for local government leadership is critical to developing innovative policies and programs to achieve deep emissions reductions from the building sector throughout the province. However, tools currently available to local governments to pursue these critical reduction targets are largely limited to information campaigns and incentives and are insufficient to achieve broad and deep energy and Green House Gas (GHG) reductions at scale.

The Help Cities Lead campaign identifies a suite of measures that will enable local governments to take effective action on reducing GHG emissions from new and existing buildings. Five regulatory measures have been identified where additional authority would be instrumental for municipalities in accelerating climate action:

- Regulating GHG emissions for new buildings
- Home energy labelling
- Property assessed clean energy (PACE) enabling legislation as outlined in the accompanying letter from PACE BC.
- Regulating GHG emissions for existing buildings
- Building energy benchmarking and reporting

Direction to implement the first three of these measures - enabling local governments to regulate GHG emissions for new buildings, home energy labelling, and PACE financing - were included in the ministerial mandate letters issued in November 2020. Help Cities Lead encourages the province to move as quickly as possible and in close consultation with local governments to develop and implement these measures.

Help Cities Lead would also like the province to enable local governments to choose, when ready, to opt into the remaining two measures not addressed by the mandate letters - namely, regulating GHG emissions for existing buildings and Building energy benchmarking and reporting.

All five of these initiatives will complement what the provincial government and utilities are already doing in these areas. Additional information, including a detailed brief on all five policy measures, GHG modeling of their impact and notes on each individual policy can be found on our resources page.

It is our hope that the CVRD board will put forward a motion endorsing this campaign and commits to sending letters of support to Ministers Osborne, Heyman, Robinson, Eby, and Ralston.

Requested Action:

WHEREAS emissions by buildings account for 40-60 per cent of a community's green-house gas (GHG) emissions;

AND WHEREAS climate policy modelling completed for Help Cities Lead shows current actions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from buildings are insufficient to achieve the province's GHG targets for 2030 and 2050;

AND WHEREAS the November 2020 mandate letters to ministers included direction to provincial ministries to move forward with three of the five policy measures included in the Help Cities Lead climate policy modelling: GHG requirements for new buildings, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, and home energy labelling;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Comox Valley Regional District Board write a letter to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Housing, and the Minister of Finance, expressing its endorsement of the Help Cities Lead campaign; support for the directions set out in the November 2020 ministerial mandate letters regarding GHG requirements for new buildings, PACE financing, and home energy labelling; and also requesting that the province empower local governments to opt to take action, if they so choose, on the two remaining items of the Help Cities Lead's campaign, namely GHG requirements for existing buildings and building energy benchmarking.

Sincerely,

W. Cole-Hamilton

Will Cole-Hamilton
Director