

## DISTRICT OF SOOKE

### CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting held Thursday, June 5, 2014 at 3:30 pm  
in the Council Chambers  
2205 Otter Point Rd

#### Committee Members Present:

Mayor Wendal Milne  
Brent Blackhall, Deputy Director of Finance  
Bonnie Sprinkling, Corporate Officer  
Laura Hooper, Parks & Environmental Services Coordinator  
Katherine Lesyshen, Planner II  
Andrew Moore, T'Sou-ke Nation

**Public:** Michael Tacon, Sooke Transition Town

**Recorder:** Sarah Temple, Finance and Administration Assistant (recorder)

**Absent:** Councillor Kevin Pearson (Chair)  
Councillor Bev Berger  
Steve Sorensen, Fire Chief

#### Action

1. **Call to Order**  
Mayor Milne called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda**  
The agenda was approved as circulated.
3. **Approval of Minutes: December 5, 2013**  
**MOVED** and seconded to approve the minutes of December 5, 2013 as circulated.  
**CARRIED**
4. **CRD Climate Action Update**  
Laura Hooper provided an update on the CRD intermunicipal climate action working group:
  - Solar Colwood has changed to Solar CRD, which makes the program available to all residents of CRD. Further information is available at [www.solarcrd.com](http://www.solarcrd.com)
  - The CRD is advocating for the LiveSmartBC *small business* program to be extended. The LiveSmartBC *residential* program has now ended.
  - CRD is also advocating for the Tap by Tap program to be extended.
  - The CRD Intermunicipal Climate Action Working Group will be providing feedback on the Regional Sustainability Strategy – which aims to update the previous 2003 strategy.
  - The CRD has sent out the preliminary Sea Level rise risk assessment results to staff. It is projecting a 0.5 m rise in sea levels by 2050, 1m rise by 2100 and 2 m rise by 2200. There were 2 key areas of the Sooke Region that were mapped, the Sooke River Flats and the area around Gordon's beach. This

information will inform future planning and development areas.

**MOVED** and seconded to accept the verbal report as presented.  
**CARRIED**

5. **Community Climate Action Strategy  
Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP)**

Laura Hooper provided an overview of the Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP):

- Three public information sessions were held to allow citizens to provide feedback on CEEP. The March 25 Public Open House, the April 9 Awareness Film and the May 3 Rotary Auction.
- The top three items people want to see the District of Sooke take action on are demand side-management (home retrofits), improvement of walking infrastructure and organics diversion from the Hartland landfill.
- Green waste (yard waste) management was also a popular topic. People want a free drop off place for yard waste.
- Further discussion on organic waste (both kitchen and yard waste) will take place at the CRD level.

**ACTION:** Create a communications strategy to promote existing home-retrofit grant programs.

**LAURA  
HOOPER  
/BONNIE  
SPRINKLING**

**ACTION:** Host a Climate Action themed Fall Community Open House, with all third party organizations that offer home retrofit grants and other Climate Action initiatives, such as composting and water saving programs, invited to participate.

Committee discussion:

- District of Sooke walking trails pamphlet to be produced in time for distribution at upcoming open house.
- Andrew Moore shared some success stories that the T'Sou-ke Nation have had with their composting programs.
- After receiving public feedback on the CEEP, the next step is to solicit feedback from formal stakeholders.

**MOVED** and seconded to receive the Community Climate Action Strategy Corporate Energy Emissions Plan (CEEP) report for information.

**CARRIED**

6. **Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) Report**

Brent Blackhall provided an overview of the CARIP report. The District tracks yearly emissions, as well as contracted service provider emissions and reports to the Province, earning incentive rebates based on results. The rebate amount for this year is roughly the same as last year.

Committee discussion:

- A historical comparison would be helpful to see how we are doing year over year.

**ACTION:** Draft a three year historical comparison of rebate amounts.

**MOVED** and seconded to receive the 2013 Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) report for information.  
**CARRIED**

**BRENT  
BLACKHALL/  
LAURA  
HOOPER**

7. **Corporate Carbon Neutrality**

Laura Hooper provided an overview of Corporate Carbon Neutrality efforts within the District. The UBCM Green Communities Committee has a multi-level program that gives local government recognition for carbon initiatives and offsetting. Sooke has achieved “level 2” recognition in the past. In order to achieve total Corporate Carbon Neutrality and “level 3” recognition, the District could reinvest the CARIP carbon tax rebate into carbon offsets.

Committee discussion:

- Discussion on where money invested in carbon offsetting actually goes. According to Brent Blackhall, funds from the purchase of carbon offsets go mainly to cover the direct costs of the offset project with a small amount going to the provider of the offsets for administration costs.
- Discussion of investing carbon offset money into local or regional projects.

**MOVED** and seconded to recommend that Council confirm its commitment under the BC Climate Action Charter and become carbon neutral in its operations annually;

**AND** establish a Carbon Tax Rebate Reserve fund for the carbon tax rebates received to be used for initiatives to reduce carbon emissions in the District of Sooke.

**CARRIED**

8. **Public Input**

Michael Tacon, representing the Sooke Transition Town Society stated that he is encouraged by the work that is being put into the issue of Climate Action by the committee

Andrew Moore shared that there is a Chinese delegation coming to Sooke on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, brought by the provincial government. They are touring the T'Sou-ke First Nation Solar facilities, as well as other provincial initiatives.

9. **Next Scheduled Meeting:** September 11, 2014

10. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

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Kevin Pearson  
Chair

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Bonnie Sprinkling  
Corporate Officer