

## CONTEXT

*The West Vancouver Community Centre is an example of the District's lead-by-example approach to community sustainability and climate action. The community centre is a showpiece of environmental technologies that minimize energy-use and as a result, West Vancouver's carbon footprint. Among several other green building features, the energy used by the building is at least 60% less than a conventional building systems approach. This in turn reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and provides lower operating costs over the life of the building.*

In accordance with the Strategic Plan Vision, West Vancouver is working to “inspire excellence and lead by example” by embarking on several climate action initiatives. The District has led in energy initiatives such as the geo-exchange systems at West Vancouver's two community centres; and has undertaken progressive projects such as the universal water metering program, and foreshore adaptation and enhancement works. The District is also working to integrate sustainability into community development and municipal operations, by facilitating: smarter, more efficient public and private developments; unique and effective public engagement and education; and advanced environmental protection regulations in our mountainous, coastal community.

The District recognizes that Climate Action is imperative to our continued community success and quality of life, and supports policies and initiatives that reduce West Vancouver's vulnerability and contribution to climate change.

With respect to municipal operations, the District of West Vancouver has signed on to the BC Climate Action Charter. As a signatory, the District is committed to achieving carbon neutral operations. Meeting this requirement will necessitate action on several fronts. For example, the District will need to: a) examine the energy consumption and energy efficiency of its buildings and other municipally-owned facilities to look for opportunities to reduce consumption and improve efficiency; b) re-examine its vehicle fleet and take steps

to replace older vehicles with more fuel efficient options; and c) examine options for staff transportation demand management, local purchasing policies, and other emission reduction policies.

In addition to the Climate Action Charter, and its requirements for reducing corporate greenhouse gases (GHGs), Provincial legislation requires all local governments to identify community GHG reduction targets and policies in Official Community Plans. District staff and the Climate Action Working Group collaborated to produce the 2010 Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) which outlined baseline (2007) GHG emissions from various sectors in our community; and set out community GHG reduction targets, and recommended actions that will help us achieve our reduction targets. As illustrated in the CCAP, more than 97% of West Vancouver's total GHG emissions originate from community-based sources, particularly from home heating and personal vehicles, while less than 2% stem from municipal vehicles and facilities.

The data indicates that it is necessary to focus climate action efforts on existing and renovated homes. The District is committed to doing as much as possible to educate and empower property owners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. At the present time education and awareness are the strongest tools available to the District, because the Provincial Building Code establishes the standards for building construction...

## THE TARGETS

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The District of West Vancouver:

- commits to becoming carbon neutral with respect to municipal operations by 2012; and
- commits to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by at least 33% below 2007 levels by 2020 and at least 80% below 2007 levels by 2050.

While the proposed GHG reduction targets may seem like a challenge, West Vancouver will meet this challenge through collaboration, motivation and by sharing successes.

These bold and visionary targets support West Vancouver's vision to "inspire excellence and lead by example". With widespread community engagement, education and involvement, and by adopting appropriate policies in our OCP, we will directly and indirectly contribute to achieving our GHG reduction targets.

Because climate action is a multi-faceted and multi-disciplinary undertaking, the OCP incorporates climate action policies throughout the Plan, rather than only within a stand-alone policy section