

October 13, 2016

City seeks public input on revised Community Energy and Emissions Plan

The City of Campbell River is looking for the public's input on the draft of the revised Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP).

The new, revised CEEP contains updated components and new sections and has been reviewed and endorsed by the City's Advisory Environment and Planning Commission (APEC). The City is now looking to receive public input before the 2016 CEEP goes to Council this fall. A survey will be available online and in the *City Currents* section of the Campbell River Mirror for the next two weeks.

Review the CEEP (2016) and fill out the survey until Oct. 28. Find it under "What's New" at campbellriver.ca

"A CEEP is an important document that identifies a community's goals around energy-related challenges and opportunities, including improved efficiencies, emissions reductions, and alternative energy sources," says Cassie Smith, the City's climate and energy specialist. *"Our revised CEEP focuses heavily on action and how the plan can be implemented despite the challenges that may be faced along the way."*

During the last year, the City's original Community Energy and Emissions Plan (2011) underwent a thorough review by a steering committee of community members and local energy professionals. The steering committee met four times between May and August 2016. Meetings with City departments were also held to be sure that the new document would be accurate.

This work is part of a national pilot program. In October last year, Campbell River was selected as only one of three communities in Canada to participate in the Getting to Implementation (GTI) project that helps communities lower emissions and energy consumption by creating a plan to implement the CEEP.

The City of Campbell River, along with the City of Calgary and Regional District of Waterloo, received 400 free advising hours from GTI advisors. City Staff will present on their experience in the program at the QUEST conference in Calgary Oct. 17 to 19.

The GTI advisors estimated that the community of Campbell River spends \$110 million a year on energy. Implementing the CEEP has the potential to increase energy security while helping to keep money in the community.

The GTI advisors have also shared their expertise to incorporate feedback from this year's steering committee meetings into the revised CEEP.

"The Community Energy and Emissions Plan is an important document," says Councillor Marlene Wright, who was the chair of the CEEP steering committee, *"It covers a number of potential actions and the benefits are significant – creating a healthier community that will be more livable and resilient against climate change. I was pleased with the input and participation we received during steering committee meetings."*

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