

SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS - 2012

EARTH WEEK FILM FESTIVAL

With School District 72, the City hosted the third annual Earth Week Film Festival in April at the Tidemark Theatre. More than 160 people attended the event, and \$868 was raised to support local environmental initiatives. Proceeds from the evening were donated by the City's Youth Action Committee to Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society, a community garden at Robron Centre and the development of an environmental bursary for a 2013 graduating student. The event featured community environmental booths, student films and the award-winning film The Clean Bin Project, with film stars Jen and Grant taking part in the discussion on waste reduction.

BIKE TO WORK WEEK 2012 CAMPBELL RIVER RANKED FOURTH IN PROVINCE

Campbell River's 627 Bike to Work Week cyclists gave Campbell River its fourth place ranking in the province – and top billing for communities of a similar size! The kilometers travelled by bike represent 4,382 kg of CO2 saved from entering the atmosphere. An average sized car travelling 20,000 km per year will produce 4,484 kg CO2. So we saved the equivalent of the CO2 emissions from one vehicle for a whole year during BTWW. The City works with community groups and businesses to coordinate this week-long event, which includes four celebration stations, prizes and the school/TD Friends of the Environment sponsored Golden Wheel Challenge.



CAMPBELL RIVER COMPOSTS! COMPETITION AND VIDEO

In the summer of 2012, six local families participated in Campbell River's first ever 30-day compost and waste reduction challenge funded by Comox Strathcona Waste Management service. Overcoming the challenges, the families showed us that composting can be fun, easy and good for the environment. The Revoy family took first place for the greatest reduction in garbage, creative video footage and healthy steaming compost! View the professionally-produced film Campbell River Composts! On the City's YouTube channel (accessible from our website). Stay tuned for the final film to be screened at the April 2013 Earth Week Film Festival.

PROMOTING LOCAL FOOD

The City and North Island College promoted Lettuce Grow courses on local food through a film series and information on winter gardening, hydroponics, plant propagation and soil. The 2013 series will offer courses such as permaculture, planning and designing your veggie garden, edible landscaping, natural pest management and farming for profit. Lettuce Grow courses support the implementation of Agriculture Now – the City's Agriculture Plan, and growing the gardening and farming community in Campbell River.

WOODSTOVE EXCHANGE PROGRAM CONTINUED

Campbell River's popular Woodstove Exchange Program saw almost 40 old smoky woodstoves replaced with cleaner burning models in 2012. With provincial support, the City provided \$250 rebates to residents making the upgrade, and participating retailers offered additional rebates on many wood and gas appliances. By upgrading inefficient stoves, smoke and fine particulate air pollution can be reduced by up to 90 per cent, and new appliances burn up to one-third less wood. Pollution reduction is important, especially in areas where wood smoke tends to accumulate where people live and play. Since pollution reduction and fuel efficiency are linked to good burning practices, the program also involved Burn It Smart workshops with certified professionals. The program wrapped up with a Neighbourhood Air Quality expert panel that discussed respiratory aspects of air pollution, measuring air quality, fire safety and regulations.



301 St. Ann's Road
Campbell River BC, V9W 4C7
www.campbellriver.ca



Questions?
Email the City of Campbell River
info@campbellriver.ca

SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS - 2012

FORESHORE PROTECTION PLAN

Many years in the making, an agreement for marine foreshore management was completed between the City and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). The agreement sets out acceptable City work in and around the marine foreshore and streamlines DFO's review process of City work plans. Using the City's Marine Foreshore Habitat Assessment and Restoration Plan as a guiding document, projects that fall under the agreement include: soft shore restorations that are consistent with long-term strategic planning around storm conditions and rising sea levels related to climate change; natural coastal processes that move gravel and wood along the shoreline; and removal/storage of gravel and wood for boat launch maintenance. The agreement is expected to shorten DFO review time from months to 10 working days. This will be especially helpful with annual boat ramp maintenance and other projects along the foreshore.



BAIKIE ISLAND RESTORATION & GRAND OPENING

The restoration of the Baikie Island Nature Reserve was completed in 2012. After decades of industrial use, the island in the Campbell River estuary has been restored to its natural state. A September grand opening event included interpretive stations, walking tours, and a ribbon cutting. The 12-year restoration project was accomplished through numerous community, provincial and federal partnerships. Restoration efforts included the removal of invasive plant species, industrial debris and degraded soils along the centre of the island. Improved soils were trucked in and contoured, large woody debris was placed as snags and in piles to provide wildlife habitat, backchannels and marsh benches suitable for salmon rearing were created, native species were planted, and an improved central walking trail is in place. The completed restoration will create an area that mimics the healthy forest around the edges of the island. Funding for the restoration was obtained from the BC Hydro Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, the Community Works Fund, Parks Parcel

URBAN FOREST INVENTORY COMPLETED

Greenways Land Trust and the City completed a detailed urban forest inventory to catalogue the extent and health of Campbell River's urban forest. From forested areas to street trees and neighbourhood trees, the urban forest is part of our living infrastructure that improves air quality, moderates storm water flows, buffers noise and wind, provides recreational opportunities and fish and wildlife habitat, and absorbs and stores carbon. The urban forest inventory is the first step in developing an urban forest management plan and cost effective ways to manage the long-term health and distribution of this vital natural asset. Final data analysis will be released in 2013. Joint funding was provided by the Federal Government Community Works Fund and a grant from the Real Estate Foundation.

CARBON NEUTRAL

In 2007, the Province introduced the BC Climate Action Charter as a voluntary commitment for local governments to demonstrate action to address climate change. The City of Campbell River, like the majority of BC local governments (179 of 188), signed onto the Climate Action Charter. The City has reduced its corporate greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 12.5 per cent from 2008 levels. As of 2011, the City's greenhouse gas emissions measured the equivalent of 1,300 tonnes of CO₂. The City has met its 2012 GHG reduction target through building and utility energy retrofits including lighting, HVAC upgrades, and other efficiency measures, solar hot water installations, the Green Roof at City Hall, fleet upgrades and efficiencies, introducing five per cent biodiesel for diesel fleet vehicles, and other initiatives. Carbon neutral initiatives are almost exclusively paid for through external funding, including grants obtained from the Federal Gas Tax Fund, BC Hydro, Solar BC, the ecoENERGY II program, and others – further saving the City money on operating and maintenance costs.

SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS - 2012

STEWARDSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

In September, outstanding environmental action was celebrated with the City of Campbell River's 11th annual Stewardship Awards in conjunction with Haig- Brown Festival on World River's Day. A wide array of nominations were submitted for individuals, groups, developers, business, industry representatives and youth whose efforts and energy improve the health and beauty of Campbell River's natural environment. Areas of achievement included air quality, pesticide free, water/energy conservation, habitat protection/creation, waste reduction and other areas of environmental excellence. In keeping with tradition, the Department of Fisheries and Ocean's Community Advisor emceed the award ceremony.



COMPOSTER REBATE PROGRAM

During the Compost Challenge, a composter rebate program promoted further waste reduction initiatives, and a total of 160 composters were picked up by local residents. This has the potential to divert several tonnes of organic waste from the landfill. Compost workshops were held at the Comox Strathcona Compost Education Centre for people to get hands-on training about how to layer, aerate and feed their composter.

SHORELINE EROSION REPAIR

Two hundred metres of eroded marine shoreline between the new lift station on Hwy. 19A and Rockland Rd. were restored using about 720 cubic yards (60 truck loads) of wood and gravel removed from the Big Rock and Ken Forde boat ramps during spring maintenance. This section of the foreshore was extensively damaged when rip rap in this area collapsed under the power of waves that stormed the shore in November 2011 and March 2012. The rip rap collapse resulted in soil washing away and damage to the seawalk. Using debris that clogs the boat ramps to nourish starved beaches at key locations is consistent with recommendations in the City's Marine Foreshore Habitat Assessment and Restoration Plan and complies with the Federal Fisheries Act. The area was restored with a natural beach and more gradual slope, which helps protect the foreshore by absorbing powerful wave energy. This slows foreshore erosion, reduces maintenance, protects City infrastructure and public access along the foreshore (roadways, sewer line and the popular seawalk) and improves natural habitat.

INNOVATIVE REPAIR FOR SIMMS CREEK CULVERT

An urgent repair was fast-tracked to "slipline" a new three-metre diameter high-density polyethylene pipe directly inside a failing culvert. Rehabilitating the culvert under Galerno Rd. safeguarded the roadway structure and utility network and enhanced the sensitive environmental habitat of Simms Creek. The project included additional stream works to improve fish migration and was completed within the permitted fisheries timeline. This project was publicly tendered with local contractor Upland Excavating Ltd and McElhanney Consulting Services and completed on budget and on schedule.

SUSTAINABLE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN ADOPTED

The City of Campbell River adopted its Sustainable Official Community Plan (SOCP) in February. The SOCP was created with input from more than 1,500 community members. The SOCP is the principal policy document that guides Campbell River's development, and includes a 50-year vision for the community. The SOCP contains priorities related to climate change and energy use; protecting the natural environment and local ecosystems; local economic development and workforce skills; shelter and food security; community identity and culture; water, health and solid waste management; and social well being.



301 St. Ann's Road
Campbell River BC, V9W 4C7
www.campbellriver.ca



Questions?

Email the City of Campbell River
info@campbellriver.ca