



AKBLG Workshop – April 20, 2018

Post AKBLG Conference

Fernie, BC

SUMMARY REPORT

Prepared by the Community Energy Association on behalf of
the BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council



Thank you to our Sponsors:



Introduction

CEA staff hosted the workshop “**High Impact Leadership on Climate Action**” immediately following the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Government (AKBLG) annual conference in Fernie, BC on April 20, 2018. The primary goals of this workshop were to inspire locally elected officials to further advance climate action in their communities and provide practical tools and solutions for energy and climate action.

Key Elements of Keynote Speaker & Panel Presentations

Travis Streb, Partner from High Impact Lab, provided the key note address via skype. The presentation entitled “Leadership in Local Governments: A Framework for Action”, provided insight into leading in a VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous) world. CEA staff, Trish Dehnel and Megan Lohmann, provided insights on their roles as Community Energy Managers in the RDCK and RDEK respectively. Janice Keyes, from CEA, shared information about FCM-ICLEI’s Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program. Core ideas from these presentations are featured below.

Travis Streb

- Discussed the context for leadership today is VUCA – volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous. We have all found ourselves in this predicament throughout our lives – times and places in which our own complexity of mind is dwarfed by our lived context. This is the nature of development – we are continually outmatched by our environment and the tension of that mismatch is what invites us to grow. This lays the groundwork for Creative Tension needed to catalyze culture transformation.
- Discussed various Stages of Adult Development. The Leadership Circle describes three key stages of development as:
 - Reactive, Creative, Integral
 - Socialized Mind, Self-Authoring Mind, Self-transforming Mind.
- In socialised mind: work hard at learning skills, gaining knowledge, forming relationships, developing our careers and keeping our image intact in the eyes of others. Our centre of gravity involves reacting to the world around us, we are dependent on validation from others.
- In self-authoring mind: we learn to trust the author within and begin creating outcomes and relationships for the greater good, less dependent on what others think. Our centre of gravity revolves around purpose and choice – bringing something new into being that has not previously existed.
- In self-transforming or integral mind: centre of gravity revolves around expecting the unexpected. Begin to manage complexity, ambiguity, uncertainty, the unknown in a different way. Delight in the unknown and welcome the uncertain.
- The framework explains leadership effectiveness: we are developmental beings and we do reach development ceilings. Each stage has enormous strengths and gifts and if our minds evolve we are more informed about how to shape the environment around us rather than being shaped/defined by it. We can become more agile and adaptable – our capacity can

become both broader and deeper. All stages are important, all have strengths and at some stage we reach the limits and bump up against the edges.

- Participants completed a self-evaluation exercise to determine their leadership style, strengths and weaknesses.

Trish Dehnel

- Trish was the Regional District of Central Kootenay Senior Energy Specialist for the pilot year of 2017. This position was 100% funded by FortisBC in the Climate Action Partners Program. The goal of the contract was to put policy in place to move the RDCK towards a low carbon future.
- Discussed the 1 year workplan, Sustainability Checklist development, Regional Residential Retrofit Program under development, Renewable Natural Gas opportunities, Compressed Natural Gas for transportation, and the case study of the Nelson Community Solar Garden as examples of climate action initiatives undertaken by local municipalities.

Megan Lohmann

- Megan has been The Regional District of East Kootenay Community Energy Manager since 2013. This is a position jointly funded by RDEK, Columbia Basin Trust and BC Hydro.
- Discussed RDEK CEM past and current collaborative projects: East Kootenay Energy Diet, Accelerate Kootenays, a regional approach to Step Code, Deep Retrofit Think Tank incubation workshop, and organics diversion pilot programs, again as examples of climate action initiatives undertaken by local municipalities.

Janice Keyes

- CEA is the Regional Climate Advisor for the FCM-ICLEI Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program for BC and the Yukon and is funded by FCM to recruit new members, facilitate milestone submissions and offer other support free of charge.
- PCP tracks and recognizes progress on corporate and community climate action through a framework of 5 milestones:
 1. Creating a GHG emissions inventory and forecast
 2. Setting an emissions reductions target
 3. Developing an action plan
 4. Implementing the action plan or a set of activities
 5. Monitoring progress and reporting results
- Many municipalities are already meeting the requirements of some or all milestones but may not have the time to complete PCP reporting requirements.
- CEA encourages the SILGA municipalities to consider joining PCP to receive national recognition for climate action and to take advantage of the peer network of 350 communities across Canada and the resources offered by the program.
- An update on recent MCIP funding highlighted two new offers:
 - **Climate Change Staff Grant**
 - 2 years at 80% salary costs up to \$125,000

- New or existing positions to work on climate action specifically
- Focus on municipalities that are in the early stages of climate action and are limited by capacity.
- Application deadline June 29, 2018
- Information online at [FCM website here](#)
- **Transition 2050 Grant**
 - 80% grant up to \$400,000 over 3 years
 - Minimum of 3 municipalities working together
 - All must be PCP members and at least 1 at M5
 - Focus on municipalities farther along in climate action implementation.
 - First step is Expression of Interest with deadline May 25, 2018
 - Information online at [FCM website here](#)

Break Out Sessions

The group divided into two identical break out groups for a facilitated discussion on the following topics:

- **Exploration:** What did you hear that was either surprising or that you want to apply?
- **Snap Shot – Leadership:** In two minutes or less, what do you expect your biggest leadership challenges to be over the rest of your term or heading into the election?
- **Hot Topics:** Which leadership challenges or climate actions would you like to dig deeper on?
- **Deep Dive:** Deeper dive collectively sharing challenges and advice on two topics to explore:
 - Outline the challenge
 - Round table of advice
- **Next Steps**
 - To move forward
 - Support needed.

The detailed facilitator notes from the discussions at the break out session are featured in the appendix of this report.

Workshop Feedback

Thirteen participants attended the workshop, representing participants from 7 communities including District of Elkford, City of Fernie, City of Grand Forks, Regional District of Central Kootenay, Village of Silverton, Village of Slocan and the District of Sparwood.

73% of the attendees were from communities under 5,000 population and the remainder were from communities with population of 5,000 – 10,000. All but one participant was a locally elected official.

Participants were asked to complete a brief questionnaire to provide feedback on the value of the event which can help BCMCLC shape future peer learning events. Some key metrics include:

- 82% rated the keynote presentation on leadership style as valuable.
- 73% felt the presentations from the Community Energy Managers were informative.
- 73% noted the breakout sessions were valuable.
- 91% expect to apply the knowledge learned in the workshop in their own community within the next 18 months.

- Participants identified a wide range of topics that BCMCLC could offer support to communities including case studies and information sharing, communication strategies, “myth busters”, and public education.
- Participants indicated Council/Board presentations, webinars and bulletins/newsletters were their preferred way of learning new information. Webinars were not high on the list.
- “Environmental protection” and “addressing climate change” were the two climate action messages that participants felt resonate most strongly with their communities. “Reducing costs/business case” and “economic development/green economy” for climate action might also be well received.
- Topics of interest for future BCMCLC workshops included renewable natural gas, methane capture, waste management, electric vehicles, organics diversion, building retrofits and Transition 2050 grant program.

Next Steps

CEA will provide the staff presentations and contact information for direct follow up with presentors if needed. Attendees received links to the CEA, BCMCLC and FCM websites for follow up resources and CEA will contact those attendees who expressed interest in the FCM-ICLEI Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP).

Appendix: Breakout Session Facilitator Notes

Group 1

Discussion

- Centralize for Sparwood, Fernie, Elkford – combine waste – shared services
- Close the loop for vehicles re; CNG
- Grand Forks – want alternatives for sledge - Exploration needed for rural Grand Forks.
- Look at Europe and how it handles waste.
- Grand Forks organics good example
- There are massive cost increases and resistance to change. What is the present value of future costs if action not done?
- RDCK – has 100% product tendered. And contingency to add best choice. Don't pect up front due to product improvements through course of project construction. Phase approach is dynamic. Allows for flexibility.
- Asset management in Grand Forks done well.
- MMBC – recycled products in BC has decreased. No plastic bags taken. More challenges and barriers to recycling (especially seniors).
- Repatriate the planet. Cannot continue to over consume and ship waste elsewhere.
- Scandinavia example
- Burning bylaws – venting index – free tipping in April and September for yard waste. Rural areas burn and create smoke in valleys. Health issue.
- Support wood stove exchange programs
- Subsidize to be financial viable re recyclables. With higher recycle rates, more becomes garbage.

Group 2

Exploration

What did you hear in the presentations that was either surprising or that you want to apply?

- Windrose project with public compost offering
- Grand Forks is interested in PCP program
- Small scale methane capture
- Regional collaboration on waste collection
- The work already done on organics diversion in RDEK by CEA: i.e. the scoping document and RFQ
- The PCP milestones and how they are linked to funding opportunities

Snapshot – Leadership Challenges

What do you expect your biggest leadership challenges to be over the rest of your term or heading into a new election?

- Resistance to carbon neutrality
- Lack of lifestyle costing/business case needed for green options

- When is it time to “start”? How can you move from a short-term vision to a long term vision?
- Assumption that future generations will find solutions
- Having an asset management plan supports climate action
- Recent recycle program changes put too much pressure on the homeowner to sort and transport recyclables
- We need to repatriate the system – be responsible for what we produce
- Lack of regional district and City alignment on some policies – ie burn ban
- Constituents are divided on climate action
- Younger vs. older generation ideals – push back against younger generation’s strong environmentalism
- Personal EV leadership is difficult due to costs and need more business case details for municipal leadership
- Resistance to change
- Push back because of misperceptions
- Communication to the Public Sucks: low understanding /buy-in, reactionary communications instead of “getting out ahead of it”, low visibility of communications material
- Electoral areas/small municipalities have few staff. Therefore funding goes to consultants, who have to be managed. There are no advocates and much of the learning/work for various issues falls solely on the elected officials.
- Lack of support from multiple orders of government. E.g. watershed management. Local communities want to safe-guard drinking water, but there’s no provisions in legislation provincially to assist in this mandate. Regulation are industry-centric.

Next Steps

What do you see as your next steps/priorities for climate action leadership?

- Provincial and federal subsidies needed for recycle programs – we need to subsidize this industry in North America
- Promote kitchen garbage collection bags that are biodegradable so people don’t need plastic
- Look at options for open pit mining methane capture
- Local governments need to collaborate with organizations like CEA to have support with program/funding/initiative tracking and prioritization. Communications management.
- Improve program accessibility by reducing the legalese: e.g. BC Hydro complicated applications that tradespeople have to fill-out, understand, and implement in order to get refunded.
- Support can’t just be in the form of funding to pay consultants. Local governments need a real secretariat (continuity, scope). Hire a grant writer through a Regional District, with pooled funding.
- Balance the purely local with the regional priorities.