

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

10. Provincial Tools for Building Energy Benchmarking

Submitted by: Councillor Carr and Councillor Wiebe

WHEREAS

1. The Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) endorsed a resolution at its 2017 Convention requesting that the Province develop an energy benchmarking program requiring that buildings above a size threshold benchmark their energy performance and report this information to the province annually, and that the resulting data be available to local governments to inform their climate policy and programs;

2. The Provincial response to the UBCM was as follows:

The Province of British Columbia recognized that energy efficiency is one of the lowest cost ways to reduce energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions. As part of the five jurisdictions that make up the Pacific Coast Collaborative, and as a contributor to the Pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, the Province supports building energy benchmarking as an important tool to achieve energy efficiency and climate objectives for the built environment.

The Province continues to explore policy and program options in relation to energy benchmarking for commercial and large multi-unit residential buildings in BC.

3. While, to date, the Province has not established a Building Energy Benchmarking program, the urgency has grown as local governments in BC develop plans to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GhG) emissions in their jurisdictions in order to avoid the worst impacts of accelerating global warming, and the need for particular provincial tools has become clearer.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following motion as attached as Appendix A, be forwarded by the City of Vancouver for consideration by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) at its May 6-8, 2020, Annual Conference and by the Union of B.C. Municipalities at its September 21-25, 2020, Convention.

RESOLUTION

PROVINCIAL TOOLS FOR BUILDING ENERGY BENCHMARKING

City of Vancouver

WHEREAS the Province of BC has communicated support for a 2017 UBCM motion requesting that the Province develop an energy benchmarking program requiring that buildings above a size threshold benchmark their energy performance and report this information to the province annually and that the resulting data be available to local governments to inform their climate policy and programs, but not yet acted on that motion—leaving room for additional direction;

AND WHEREAS the urgency to implement measures to help reduce Greenhouse Gas (GhG) emissions in the building sector has grown since the October 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report verified that drastic reductions in GhG emissions are needed by 2030 in order to avert catastrophic climate change impacts, and increasing numbers of local governments in BC (numbering 31 as of January 31, 2020) declare a global climate emergency and develop bolder plans to mitigate accelerating climate change:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) request that the Province act on the 2017 UBCM motion for a building energy benchmark program within a year;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the UBCM request of the Province that the program include appropriate industry support tools to facilitate easy compliance, a benchmark data management system accessible by local governments to help inform their industry engagement and policy development, and plans and timelines for expanding the program to include other building types.

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