

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

6. Increasing Provincial Incentives for Installing Solar (PV) Panels and Solar Hot Water

Submitted by: Councillor Carr

WHEREAS

1. In 2021, rapidly changing climate brought a 'heat dome', 'polar vortex' and 'atmospheric river' to British Columbia, causing record high and low temperatures, floods and fires, and high winds all of which destroyed communities and highways and exposed the vulnerability of our infrastructure and long-distance electricity grid;
2. Scientists are now predicting much more rapid climate change, with increased likelihood and frequency of catastrophic weather events;
3. British Columbia's electricity grid not only faced record-breaking demand for energy in 2021 to cope with extreme weather, but also faces rapidly increasing demand as communities, businesses and citizens work to reduce GHGs to meet climate emergency targets by, for example, switching to electric vehicles, electric hot water heating, and installing heat pumps and EV charging;
4. Globally, the installation of solar (PV) panels and solar hot water systems is increasing rapidly as a measure to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. For example, to increase renewable energy supply, starting in 2023 California is requiring most new buildings to install solar panels. Also starting in 2023, Berlin is requiring solar panel (PV) installations for all new buildings and major renovations; and
5. B.C. Hydro's Five-Year Electrification Plan, released by the government in September of 2021, estimates that it has sufficient supply of clean electricity to 2030. The Plan includes measures to incentivize and achieve fuel switching from fossil fuels to clean hydro-electric energy through government rebates and financial incentives to switch to electric heat pumps and electric hot water heaters. But there are no incentives for solar (photovoltaic) panels and solar hot water systems that would increase the small-scale distributed supply of clean energy which would both help meet the increasing demand for electricity and greatly reduce energy costs for families and businesses.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT following motion and supplementary memo be forwarded by the City of Vancouver for consideration by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) at its May 4-6, 2022, Annual Conference.

- B. THAT following motion and supplementary memo be forwarded by the City of Vancouver for consideration by the Union of B.C. Municipalities at its September 12-16, 2022, Convention, if it is not forwarded by the LMLGA to the UBCM Convention.

MOTION: Provincial Incentives for Solar (PV) Panels and Solar Hot Water

WHEREAS the Province's *CleanBC Roadmap to 2030* and B.C. Hydro's *Five-Year Electrification Plan*, both released in the fall of 2021, promote rebates to purchase electric heat pumps that incentivize British Columbians to switch from using fossil fuels to hydro-electricity to heat their homes and hot water, thus mitigating climate change by reducing GHGs. However, there are no equivalent incentives for home and building owners to increase their own supply of renewable energy or to reduce the demand for hydro-electricity, both of which will become increasingly important for climate resiliency as B.C. Hydro has estimated it has sufficient supply of electricity only until 2030;

AND WHEREAS rebates for home and building owners to install solar hot water systems and solar (photovoltaic) panels would increase the supply of clean energy as well as reduce energy costs for families and businesses both of which increase climate resiliency:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Government of British Columbia pursue as quickly as possible adding financial incentives, including increased feed-in-tariffs, for home and building owners to install solar (photovoltaic) panels and solar-hot water systems;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT UBCM request that the Government of B.C. modify the B.C. Building Code, and include in a future B.C. Existing Buildings Alterations Code, specifications, including design and placement standards, and load-bearing requirements, for solar (photovoltaic) panels and solar hot water systems.

SUPPLEMENTARY MEMO

In 2021, rapidly changing climate brought a 'heat dome', 'polar vortex' and 'atmospheric river' to British Columbia, causing record high and low temperatures, floods and fires, and high winds which destroyed communities and highways and exposed the vulnerability of our infrastructure and long-distance electricity grid.

Scientists are now predicting much more rapid climate change, with increased likelihood and frequency of catastrophic weather events.

British Columbia's electricity grid not only faced record-breaking demand for energy in 2021 to cope with extreme weather, but also faces rapidly increasing demand as communities, businesses and citizens work to reduce GHGs to meet climate emergency targets by, for example, switching to electric vehicles, electric generators, electric hot water heating, and installing heat pumps and EV charging.

Globally, the installation of solar (PV) panels and solar hot water systems is increasing rapidly as a measure to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. For example, to increase renewable energy supply, starting in 2023, the city of Berlin is requiring solar panel (PV) installations for all new buildings and major renovations. In cooler temperate climates, solar hot water systems typically heat 60 to 80 percent of hot water used per year and the summer productivity of solar photovoltaic systems offset annual electricity costs.

B.C. Hydro's Five-Year Electrification Plan, released by the government in September of 2021, estimates that it has sufficient supply of clean electricity to 2030. The Plan includes measures to incentivize and achieve fuel switching from fossil fuels to clean hydro-electric energy through government rebates and financial incentives to switch to electric heat pumps and electric hot water heaters. But there are no incentives for solar (photovoltaic) panels and solar hot water systems that would increase the small-scale distributed supply of clean energy which would both help meet the increasing demand for electricity and greatly reduce energy costs for families and businesses.

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