



BACKGROUND

January 20, 2009

KOOTENAY REGIONAL CARBON NEUTRAL ACTION STRATEGY

The Regional Districts (RDs) of Central Kootenay, East Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary are signatories to the B.C. Climate Action Charter. As signatories, the RDs have committed to, among other initiatives, becoming carbon neutral by 2012.

The RDs have requested and received the assistance of Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and collaboratively all four organizations have prepared the Kootenay Regional Carbon Neutral Action Strategy (the strategy). The goal of the strategy is to:

Develop a coordinated regional approach and plan to assist local governments to achieve carbon neutrality and emissions reductions targets.

The strategy is focussed on corporate emissions for RDs, as well as any municipalities and First Nations that choose to participate and take advantage of the support and resources that will be available free of charge.

Corporate emissions include, but are not limited to, building and vehicle fleet emissions. This strategy does not encompass broader personal, community or industrial emissions reductions strategies.

The strategy specifies actions from Years 1 – 4 commencing in 2009. Year One of this multi-year effort starts in 2009 with emissions inventories for Regional Districts, participating municipalities and First Nations, and the development of action plans for each Regional District, and an action plan template for each municipality and First Nation that will help guide their efforts to reduce emissions.

Year One targets include:

1. establishing a team to coordinate the work;
2. developing baseline emissions inventories for the RDs and participating municipalities and First Nations;
3. developing carbon neutral action plans for the RDs and an action plan template that participating municipalities can follow;
4. developing and delivering learning sessions to local government staff and elected officials;
5. exploring the feasibility of establishing a municipal corporation to coordinate regional climate change action; and
6. exploring carbon offset investment options.

CBT is acting as a convener and facilitator in a supportive capacity to the RDs by providing strategic advice, technical expertise and administrative support, as required, and funding that will be directed to the delivery of Year 1 targets.

The full costs of Year 1 targets (approximately \$440,000) will be shared between the RDs and CBT.