



STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 21, 2020

FILE: 0550-04 Board

TO: Chair and Directors,
Regional Board

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: CLIMATE ACTION REVENUE INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CARIP)

PURPOSE

To provide an update on progress made by the Regional District toward meeting the climate action goals within the BC Climate Action Charter, and to fulfill the annual CARIP grant requirement to report publicly on the Regional District's progress toward carbon neutrality.

POLICY ANALYSIS

The Regional District is a signatory to the Climate Action Charter and under Section 5 of the Charter, has agreed to achieve the following goals (summary):

- Being carbon neutral in respect of its operations by 2012;
- Measuring and reporting on community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profile, and;
- Creating complete, compact and more energy efficient rural and urban communities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2019 CARIP report (attached) shows that the Regional District emissions slightly increased over the 2018 emissions. The increases are primarily the result of increased gas consumption for fleet vehicles, natural gas consumption at the Strathcona Gardens and employee/director travel.

In 2020, the SRD made a 2019 carbon tax claim for \$30,996 under the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) that will be returned to the functions that paid the carbon tax.

The Strathcona Regional District continues to strive for ways to reduce emissions as required under the Climate Action Charter amidst population growth within the region resulting in increased users at our recreation facility and an increasing workforce within the Regional District. There is no legal obligation under the Climate Action Charter to purchase off-sets as a means to achieve carbon neutrality. In the absence of any specific sustainability plan, staff continue to seek opportunities to reduce GHG emissions wherever possible.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

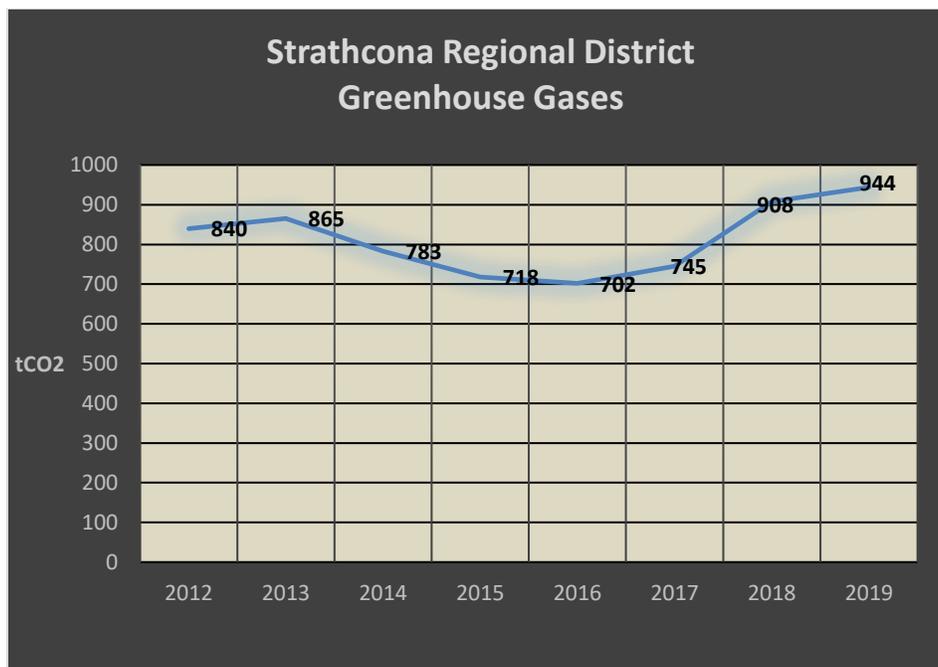
Respectfully,



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

ANALYSIS

2019 has seen an increase in greenhouse gases over 2018 and previous years.



The main factors that contributed to the increased carbon footprint in 2019 from 2018 levels:

1. A slight increased usage of natural gas due to increased consumption at Strathcona Gardens;
2. An increased usage of fleet vehicle and director fuel purchases.

The Province provides three options for local governments to balance emissions and achieve carbon neutrality:

1. Local projects supported by the 'Green Communities Committee', those being:
 - a. Organic waste diversion;
 - b. Solar hot water installation;
 - c. Fleet fuel switching; and
 - d. Building retrofits.
2. Alternative local projects which meet eligibility requirements, or
3. Purchase of offsets from the Pacific Carbon Trust or a third party provider.

The Regional District continues to measure and report our corporate emissions profile and submit these findings to the Province. This action satisfies the threshold associated with the CARIP grant program such that the Regional District receives an annual grant equal to 100% of the carbon tax paid as a direct expenditure.

In the absence of a Board adopted integrated sustainability plan with specific corporate objectives, staff continue to seek opportunities wherever possible to reduce the Regional District's environmental footprint. A few initiatives to reduce GHG emissions have been identified for 2020 including:

- Replacement of air handling units and dehumidifier at the Strathcona Gardens Recreation Complex.
- Inclusion of energy efficient options for the ReCreate project.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Under the CARIP program, the Regional District has the ability to qualify annually for a grant to recover monies it pays in carbon taxes on fuel and natural gas. The Regional District pays these funds through individual operational transactions and then applies for the grant through the CARIP measurement and recovery process.

There is no legal obligation under the Climate Action Charter to purchase off-sets as a means to achieve carbon neutrality.

Prepared by: Edith Watson, Senior Executive Assistant

Attachment: Climate Action Revenue Incentive Public Report for 2019

Climate Action Revenue Incentive (CARIP) Public Report for 2019



Report Submitted by: Strathcona Regional District
Name: Edith Watson
Role: Senior Executive Assistant/Deputy Corporate Officer
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Phone: 250-830-6712

Date: May 22, 2020

Strathcona Regional District has completed the 2019 Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) Public Report as required by the Province of BC. The CARIP report summarizes actions taken in 2019 to reduce corporate and community-wide energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and reports on progress towards achieving carbon neutrality.

2019 Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) Survey

2019 Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) Survey

Overview

INTRODUCTION:

The 2019 CARIP survey highlights and celebrates local government climate action in British Columbia.

Local governments are required to submit the 2019 CARIP Survey by June 1, 2020.

Detailed survey instructions, FAQs and definitions can be found in the [2019 CARIP Program Guide](#).

Once the survey is complete, please download a copy of your responses (you will be given the download link at the end of the survey).

SURVEY CONTENT:

Section 1: Local Government Information

Section 2: Narrative Focus

2019 Corporate Climate Action

2019 Community-wide Climate Action

2019 Climate Change Adaptation Action

Section 3: 2019 Carbon Neutral Reporting

Section 1 – Local Government Information

Name of Regional District:

Strathcona Regional District

Does your region have a Regional Growth Strategy (RGS):

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Population:

- 0-4,999
- 5,000 to 9,999
- 10,000 to 49,999
- 50,000 to 99,999
- 100,000+

Submitted by:

Name

Edith Watson

Position

Senior Executive Assistant/Deputy Corporate Officer

Email Address

ewatson@srd.ca

Phone Number

250-830-6712

Section 2 - Narrative Focus

Local government signatories to the B.C. Climate Action Charter have committed to taking climate action by:

- Working towards achieving corporate carbon neutrality;
- Measuring and reporting on their community-wide GHG emissions; and
- Creating complete, compact, energy-efficient communities.

A key part of the 2019 CARIP survey is to highlight and celebrate successful climate actions undertaken by local governments in British Columbia.

In 2019, what actions has your local government taken to support the creation of compact, complete, and energy efficient communities?

2019 CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION:

Corporate climate actions refer to actions that reduce the GHG emissions produced as a result of a local government's delivery of "traditional services", including fire protection, solid waste management, recreational/cultural services, road and traffic operations, water and wastewater management, and local government administration.

In 2019, when it comes to corporate climate action, did your local government undertake any of the following (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY):

Building and Lighting Actions

Energy Generation Actions

Greenspace Actions

Planning Actions

Solid Waste Actions

Transportation Actions

Water and Wastewater Actions

Other Climate Actions (PLEASE SPECIFY)

Don't know

Please specify 'Other Climate Actions'

When it comes to corporate Building and Lighting Actions, did your local government undertake any of the following in 2019 (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY):

- New or upgraded energy-efficient lighting systems
- New or upgraded energy-efficient heating systems
- New or upgraded building envelope initiatives
- Upgrades to amenities in recreation facilities
- Studies related to building and/or lighting energy efficiency
- Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)
- Don't know

Please specify 'Other'

When it comes to corporate Energy Generation Actions, did your local government undertake any of the following in 2019 (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY):

- Solar power projects
- Heat recovery or heat reclamation projects
- Biomass or bio-gas projects
- Geo-exchange or geothermal projects
- Studies related to energy generation
- Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)
- Don't know

Please specify 'Other'

When it comes to corporate Greenspace Actions, did your local government undertake any of the following in 2019 (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY):

- Tree planting
- Greenspace acquisition
- New or upgraded amenities in parks
- Invasive species management
- Plans or strategies related to greenspace
- Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)
- Don't know

Please specify 'Other'

When it comes to corporate Planning Actions, did your local government undertake any of the following in 2019 (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY):

- Energy/Emissions Management Plan (New or Updated)
- Asset Management Plan (New or Updated)
- Corporate Climate Action Plan (New or Updated)
- Strategic Plan (New or Updated)
- Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)
- Don't know

Please specify 'Other'

When it comes to corporate Solid Waste Actions, did your local government undertake any of the following in 2019 (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY):

- Introduction, expansion or improvement of recycling initiatives at corporate facilities
- Introduction, expansion or improvement of composting initiatives at corporate facilities
- Communication or education for staff related to corporate solid waste initiatives
- Studies or research related to corporate solid waste initiatives
- Plans or strategies related to corporate solid waste initiatives
- Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)
- Don't know

Please specify 'Other'

When it comes to corporate Transportation Actions, did your local government undertake any of the following in 2019 (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY):

- Fleet replacement or upgrades
- New or improved electric vehicle initiatives
- New or improved active transportation infrastructure for staff
- Communication or outreach for staff related to corporate transportation initiatives
- New or improved public transportation initiatives for staff
- Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)
- Don't know

Please specify 'Other'

When it comes to corporate Water and Wastewater Actions, did your local government undertake any of the following in 2019 (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY):

- New or improved water or wastewater infrastructure
- Studies or research related to water conservation
- Plans or strategies related to water or wastewater
- Water reduction initiative(s)
- Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)
- Don't know

Please specify 'Other'

Water conservation education program – Area D

As mentioned, a key part of the 2019 CARIP Survey is to highlight and celebrate successful climate actions undertaken by local governments in British Columbia. This question provides local governments the opportunity to demonstrate leadership and innovative approaches to reduce corporate GHG emissions.

When it comes to the corporate climate action, please highlight up to three significant actions focused on reducing GHG emissions that your local government undertook in 2019:

Corporate Action #1

Energy Efficiency Upgrade Project - Completed the installation of the CO₂ refrigeration plants for both arenas along in phase one of the energy efficiency upgrade (EEU) project. The goal of the project is to capture waste heat for the two ice surfaces and use the heat elsewhere in the facility. Phase three of the EEU project is to replace air handling units associated with spaces that would not be affected on the future revitalization of Strathcona Gardens. In phase two, new high efficiency boilers were replaced this should significantly support the reduction of natural gas costs that continue have escalating increases associated with the extra capacity requirements defined with pool leakage and an energy recovery loop that is not fully operational.

Corporate Action #2

Emission Free with Electric Ice Resurfacer - Purchased an electric Zamboni to replace the old Olympia ice resurfacer. Eliminated millions of cubic feet of emissions annually by replacing fossil-fuel powered ice resurfacers with electric powered. Further reducing the strain on the facility's ventilation system, propane fumes are heavier, so they remain at ice level with electric air quality is safeguarded. It is a well-known fact that the resurfacer and edger are the mostly likely source of poor air in an ice arena. Fossil-fueled equipment contributes to elevated Carbon Monoxide and Nitrogen Dioxide levels. Electric/battery equipment does not exhaust these pollutants into the arena air.

Corporate Action #3

Addition of a new compact energy efficient fleet vehicle.

2019 COMMUNITY-WIDE CLIMATE ACTION:

Community-wide actions refer to actions that reduce GHG emissions across the community (i.e. actions not related to “traditional services” in corporate operations).

When it comes to community-wide climate action in 2019, did your local government undertake any of the following (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY):

- Building and Lighting Actions
- Energy Generation Actions
- Greenspace Actions
- Planning Actions
- Solid Waste Actions
- Transportation Actions
- Water and Wastewater Actions
- Other Climate Actions (PLEASE SPECIFY)
- Don't know

Please specify 'Other Climate Actions'

When it comes to community-wide Building and Lighting Actions, did your local government undertake any of the following in 2019 (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY):

- New or upgraded energy-efficient lighting systems
- New or upgraded energy-efficient heating systems
- BC Energy Step Code related projects
- Incentives/rebate programs related to energy-efficient building or lighting
- Outreach, education or communication related to energy-efficient building or lighting
- Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)
- Don't know

Please specify 'Other'

When it comes to community-wide Energy Generation Actions, did your local government undertake any of the following in 2019 (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY):

- Solar power projects
- Heat recovery or heat reclamation projects
- Landfill gas capture/utilization projects
- Micro-hydro projects
- Studies or research related to energy generation
- Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)
- Don't know

Please specify 'Other'

When it comes to community-wide Greenspace Actions, did your local government undertake any of the following in 2019 (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY):

- Tree planting
- Greenspace restoration or maintenance
- Greenspace acquisition
- Invasive species management
- Plans or strategies related to greenspace
- Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)
- Don't know

Please specify 'Other'

When it comes to community-wide Planning Actions, did your local government undertake any of the following in 2019 (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY):

- Official Community Plan (New or Updated)
- Climate Action Plan (New or Updated)
- Regional Growth Strategy (New or Updated)
- New or updated bylaw(s) or zoning addressing climate issues
- Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)
- Don't know

Please specify 'Other'

When it comes to community-wide Solid Waste Actions, did your local government undertake any of the following in 2019 (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY):

- Introduction, expansion or improvement of recycling initiatives
- Introduction, expansion or improvement of composting initiatives
- Community clean-up initiatives
- General waste reduction initiative (including landfill diversion strategies)
- Outreach, education or communication related to solid waste
- Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)
- Don't know

Please specify 'Other'

When it comes to community-wide Transportation Actions, did your local government undertake any of the following in 2019 (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY):

- New or improved active transportation infrastructure
- New or improved public transportation initiatives
- New or improved electric vehicle initiatives
- Outreach, education or communication related to transportation
- Plans or strategies related to transportation
- Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)
- Don't know

Please specify 'Other'

When it comes to community-wide Water and Wastewater Actions, did your local government undertake any of the following in 2019 (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY):

- Water restrictions
- Incentives/rebate programs related to water or wastewater
- Outreach, education or communication related to water or wastewater
- Studies or research related to water or wastewater
- Plans or strategies related to water or wastewater
- Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)
- Don't know

Please specify 'Other'

Completion of the Quathiaski Sewer System Extension to include 43 additional properties.

As mentioned, a key part of the 2019 CARIP survey is to highlight and celebrate successful climate actions undertaken by local governments in British Columbia. This question provides local governments the opportunity to demonstrate leadership and innovative approaches to reduce community-wide GHG emissions.

When it comes to the community-wide climate action, please highlight up to three significant actions focused on reducing GHG emissions that your local government undertook in 2019:

Community-Wide Action #1

Seismic upgrade and boiler replacement at Quadra Island Community Centre.

Community-Wide Action #2

Strathcona Gardens Planned Redevelopment – still awaiting funding. The project plans for significant redevelopment of the facility would include many environmental sustainability measures such as transportation on demand planning, bike racks, glazing to maximize natural light/heating, new energy fittings and equipment.

Community-Wide Action #3

Emphasis on broadband connectivity as a strategic priority for the region (reduced physical travel).

2019 CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS AND ADAPTATION ACTION:

This section of the 2019 CARIP survey is designed to collect information related to the types of climate impacts local governments are experiencing and how they are being addressed.

Please identify the climate impacts that are most relevant to your local government (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY):

- Increased temperatures increasing wildfire activity
- Extreme weather events contributing to urban and overland flooding
- Changes to temperature and precipitation causing seasonal drought
- Warmer winter temperatures reducing snowpack
- Sea level rise and storms causing coastal flooding and/or erosion
- Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)
- Don't know

Please specify 'Other'

In 2019, did your local government take any of the following actions in an effort to consider or address the impacts of climate change? (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

- Emergency response planning
- Asset management
- Infrastructure upgrades
- Public education and awareness
- Strategic and financial planning
- Risk and vulnerability assessments
- Risk reduction strategies
- Official Community Plan policy changes
- Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)

Don't know

Please specify 'Other'

In 2019, did your local government partner with any of the following organizations to prepare for, and adapt to, a changing climate? (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

Adaptation to Climate Change Team (SFU)

Columbia Basin Trust

Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (UBCM)

Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Fraser Basin Council

Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (UVIC)

Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)

Don't know

Please specify 'Other'

As mentioned, a key part of the 2019 CARIP survey is to highlight and celebrate successful climate actions undertaken by local governments in British Columbia. This question provides local governments the opportunity to demonstrate leadership and innovative approaches to adapting to a changing climate.

When it comes to climate preparedness and adaptation actions, please highlight up to three significant actions/initiatives that your local government undertook in 2019:

Adaptation Action #1

Adaptation Action #2

Adaptation Action #3

Section 3: 2019 Carbon Neutral Reporting

Local governments are required to report on their progress in achieving their corporate carbon neutral goal under the B.C. Climate Action Charter. Working with B.C. local governments, the joint Provincial-UBCM Green Communities Committee has established a common approach to determining corporate carbon neutrality for the purposes of the Charter, including a Carbon Neutral Framework and supporting guidance for local governments on how to become carbon neutral.

Prior to completing this portion of the survey, please ensure that you are familiar with guidance available on the B.C. Climate Action Toolkit website, specifically the Workbook (WILL BE UPDATED) and Becoming Carbon Neutral: A Guide for Local Governments in British Columbia (WILL BE UPDATED).

Please note: As a result of the BC Recycling Regulation, local governments are no longer required to account for GHG emissions from vehicles, equipment and machinery required for the collection, transportation and diversion of packaging and printed paper, in their annual CARIP reports.

2019 CARBON EMISSIONS

Did your local government measure corporate GHG emissions for 2019?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

If your local government measured 2019 corporate GHG emissions, please report the number of corporate GHG emissions (in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e)) from:

Service Delivery Type	2019 Corporate GHG Emissions
Services Delivered Directly by your Local Government	849
Contracted Services	95.38

TOTAL A - CORPORATE GHG EMISSIONS (DIRECT + CONTRACTED) FOR 2019:

944.38

2019 CARBON REDUCTIONS

To be carbon neutral, a local government must balance their TOTAL corporate GHG emissions generated in 2019 by one or a combination of the following actions:

- Undertake Green Communities Committee-supported Option 1 Project(s)
- Undertake Green Communities Committee-supported Option 2 Project(s)
- Purchase carbon offsets from a credible offset provider

For more information about options to balance or offset corporate GHG emissions please refer to *Becoming Carbon Neutral: A Guidebook for Local Governments in British Columbia*.

If applicable, please report the 2019 GHG emissions reductions (in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e)) being claimed from any of the following Option 1 GHG Reduction Projects:

Option 1 GHG Reduction Projects	2019 GHG Emissions Reductions
1A Energy Efficiency Retrofits	
1B Solar Thermal	
1C Household Organic Waste	
1D Low Emission Vehicles	
1E Avoided Forest Conversion	
1F Trenchless Technology	

TOTAL B - REDUCTIONS FROM ALL OPTION 1 PROJECTS FOR 2019:

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If applicable, please report the names and 2019 GHG emissions reductions (in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e)) being claimed from Option 2 GHG Reduction Projects:

Names of Option 2 GHG Reduction Projects	2019 GHG Emissions Reductions
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

TOTAL C - REDUCTIONS FROM ALL OPTION 2 PROJECTS FOR 2019:

2019 CARBON OFFSETS

If applicable, please report the name of the offset provider, type of project and number of offsets purchased (in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e)) from an offset provider for the 2019 reporting year:

	Name of Offset Provider	Name of Project	2019 GHG Emissions Reductions
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

TOTAL D - OFFSETS PURCHASED FOR 2019:

TOTAL REDUCTIONS AND OFFSETS FOR 2019 (Total B+C+D):

Corporate GHG Emissions Balance for 2019

Your local government's corporate GHG emissions balance is the difference between total corporate offsetable GHG emissions (direct + contracted emissions) and the GHG emissions reduced through Green Communities Committee Option 1 and Option 2 projects and/or the purchase of offsets.

CORPORATE GHG EMISSIONS BALANCE FOR 2019 = (Total A – (B+C+D))

944.38

If your corporate GHG emissions balance is negative or zero, your local government is carbon neutral. CONGRATULATIONS!

If your local government was carbon neutral in 2019, please record any emissions reductions you will be carrying over for future years and the source of the reductions, including the year they were earned (e.g. organics diversion, 2019 100 tCO₂e):

	Source of Carryover Emission Reduction	Year Earned	GHG Emissions Reductions
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

TOTAL E - BALANCE OF REDUCTIONS ELIGIBLE FOR CARRY OVER TO NEXT YEAR

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GREEN COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE CLIMATE ACTION RECOGNITION PROGRAM:

The joint Provincial-UBCM Green Communities Committee is pleased to be continuing the Climate Action Recognition Program again this year. This multi-level program provides the Green Communities Committee with an opportunity to review and publicly recognize the progress and achievements of each Climate Action Charter (Charter) signatory.

Recognition is provided on an annual basis to local governments who demonstrate progress on their Charter commitments, according to the following:

Level 1 – Demonstrating Progress on Charter Commitments: For local governments who demonstrate progress on fulfilling one or more of their Charter commitments.

Level 2 – Measuring GHG Emissions: For local governments that achieve Level 1, who measure their corporate GHG emissions for the reporting year and demonstrate that they are familiar with their community’s energy and emissions inventory (i.e. CEEI).

Level 3 – Accelerating Progress on Charter Commitments: For those local governments who have achieved Level 1 and 2 and demonstrate significant action (corporately or community-wide) in reducing GHG emissions in the reporting year (e.g. through undertaking a GHG reduction project, purchasing offsets, establishing a reserve fund).

Level 4 - Achievement of Carbon Neutrality: For local governments who achieve corporate carbon neutrality in the reporting year.

Based on your local government's 2018 CARIP Climate Action/Carbon Neutral Progress Survey, please check the Green Communities Committee Climate Action Recognition Program level that best applies:

- Level 1 – Demonstrating Progress on Charter Commitments
- Level 2 – Measuring GHG Emissions
- Level 3 – Accelerating Progress on Charter Commitments
- Level 4 - Achievement of Carbon Neutrality
- Don't know

Related to Level 3 recognition, if applicable, please identify any new or ongoing corporate or community-wide GHG reduction projects (other than an Option 1 or Option 2 project) undertaken by your local government that reflects a significant investment of time and/or financial resources and is intended to result in significant GHG reductions:

Does your local government set aside funds in a climate reserve fund or similar?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know