



Making a difference...together

Executive Offices
625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

T: 250.360.3125
F: 250.360.3130
www.crd.bc.ca

July 31, 2025

File: 0400-20

The Honourable Adrian Dix
Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions

Via email: ECS.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Dix:

RE: ENABLING LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENT CLIMATE ACTION

On behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, I am writing to respectfully request that the Province of British Columbia take further legislative and regulatory steps to empower local governments to accelerate climate action and meet our shared greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals.

While local governments are well-positioned to lead regionally appropriate climate initiatives, our ability to act is constrained by the limited authority and tools available under current provincial legislation. The limits are particularly acute for regional districts because the Local Government Act envisions a limited role for regional districts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The CRD and its member municipalities are committed to advancing bold climate action aligned with CleanBC and provincial targets. However, critical regulatory changes, particularly in the building sector, are required to support effective and timely local action. To this end, we request that the province:

1. Enact or provide enabling authority and resourcing for local governments to voluntarily implement building performance requirements, including those targeting operational and embodied carbon emissions, following a similar approach used for the BC Energy Step Code or the Single Use and Plastic Waste Prevention regulation;
2. Expand the legislative authority for local governments to exercise concurrent authority for the Protection of the Natural Environment and create a timely process to respond to requests to exercise concurrent authority to reflect the urgency of the climate crisis; and
3. Establish provincial support mechanisms to ensure that local governments can access the technical expertise, natural gas utility data, and funding necessary to implement these enhanced measures effectively and equitably.

Through nearly two decades of implementing climate action, including the CRD's [2021 Climate Action Strategy](#), the capital region has achieved a 25% per capita reduction in GHG emissions. However, without the appropriate legislative tools, there are systemic limitations that prevent the CRD from fully realizing the leadership required to meet our targets. Empowering local governments with the authority and flexibility to act will be critical to bridging this gap.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your staff to discuss how the CRD and other local governments can partner with the province to advance this work collaboratively.

Sincerely,

Cliff McNeil-Smith
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: The Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
CRD Board
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD