

## Corporate Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy – 2020 to 2022

*Reviewed and updated every three years: Next update to be completed by December 31, 2022*

### **Guidance:**

This Corporate Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy is a strategic tool to guide and enable the qathet Regional District to achieve carbon neutrality by 2022 and to reduce the corporate GHG emissions as quantified within the boundaries of the BC Traditional Services Boundaries, to the extent possible within the timeframe.

For each three-year period, GHG reduction pathways and at least one project in each pathway is identified for implementation. Also, projects and pathways are prioritized in order of importance for each three-year period to strategically focus management attention and funds. It is inevitable that the environment in which qathet Regional District (qRD) operates is constantly changing (political, economic and other); thus, it is recommended that the review at the end of each two-year period include a progress evaluation, a realignment of pathways, as well as establishing new pathways and projects. Any projects not achieved should also be documented for lessons learned.

### **Policy Background:**

As a signatory to the BC Climate Action Charter, qRD has been committed to being carbon neutral in its corporate operations, developing strategies and taking actions to reduce its corporate emissions. qRD has identified Climate Change as one of the six strategic priorities in its Strategic Plan for 2019 to 2022. One of the strategic goals under the Climate Change priority is to develop and implement a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy. Given this framework, qRD will adopt the GHG pathway projects that will effectively reduce its corporate GHG emissions and help to achieve carbon neutrality.

### **Methodology Background:**

The starting point for any organization looking to achieve GHG reductions is to understand its environmental impact by completing a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, which seeks to quantify all GHG emissions within the budgetary control of an organization. This GHG inventory serves the purpose of clearly showing where an organization stands in terms of its environmental footprint. This GHG inventory establishes a baseline from which to measure change over time.

An organization that takes this first step will be in an optimal position to make informed decisions about next actions on its path to sustainability. In addition, by using services like the Local Carbon Registry, an organization demonstrates its commitment to be accountable for its impact, as well as measuring its progress. To reduce the overall GHG emissions in its GHG inventory, the following steps provide direction to organizations on their journey to meaningful GHG reductions:

1. Identify and address, at a minimum, the top three highest contributing sources of GHG emissions for each two-year period by developing and implementing projects based on best practices.
2. Develop or contribute to local emission reduction projects that have a sequestration element to them in order to achieve carbon neutrality.
3. Develop long term resilience and carbon neutrality with 100% renewable local energy.

## Strategic Corporate GHG Emissions Pathway Plan – 2020 to 2022

### **Priority 1**

The waste sector is the biggest contributor to qRD's corporate GHG inventory. Therefore, reductions of GHG emissions in this area should be addressed.

#### **Pathway P1 – Waste Management**

- A1 – Resource Recovery Centre

### **Priority 2**

qRD is a signatory to the BC Climate Action Charter, which sets a target of carbon neutrality by 2012 in its corporate operations. The Regional District has so far failed to achieve this goal. Therefore, carbon sequestration projects should be undertaken in the community to offset the GHGs from corporate operations.

#### **Pathway P5 – Sequestration/Natural Assets**

- A1 – Wetland restoration project (possibly on Texada Island)
- A2 – Local shelter belt or Bioremediation Project

### **Priority 3**

The Corporate Vehicle fleets current fossil fuel use is the second biggest contributor to qRD's corporate GHG inventory. Accordingly, this needs to be addressed as one of the priority areas.

#### **Pathway P2 – Corporate Vehicle Fleet**

- A1 – Demand Reduction, Rightsizing, Contracting and Sharing Assets
- A2 – Enable the Utilization of more Renewable Fuels (Including fleet electrification and setting up electrical charging stations)

### **Priority 4**

The third biggest contributor to qRD's corporate GHG inventory is the use of fossil fuels in buildings. The adoption of local renewable energy generation is the most effective strategy to address this GHG source.

#### **Pathway P4 – Renewable Energy Generation**

- A1 – Utilization of Solar Power
- A2 – Explore Utilization of Geothermal and / or Heat Recovery Technology

Note: Pathways provide directional orientation. The actual project activities, planning, site selection, funding and permitting will be performed as part of the ongoing District's administrative work. The Board will review progress on an ongoing basis.