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REPORT FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

TO:	Chair and Members, Climate Action Mitigation and Adaptation Standing Committee	File No.: ENG 1.0
FROM:	Rachael Ryder, Corporate Sustainability Specialist	
DATE:	March 4, 2025	
SUBJECT SUMMARY:	The Exploration Place – Energy Audit Purpose: For Information	
_	<u>Attachments:</u> Backgrounder <u>Previous Reports: None</u>	

RECOMMENDATION(S):	ENTITLEMENT	HOW VOTE COUNTED
THAT the report dated March 4, 2025, regarding "The Exploration Place – Energy Audit" be received for information.	All 1 Director/1 vote	Majority

ISSUE(S):

The Corporate Climate Change Action Plan 2024 (CCCAP) identifies The Exploration Place as the Regional District facility that contributes the largest proportion of energy consumption, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and energy costs due to the high use of natural gas for heating and overall electricity usage. The building that houses The Exploration Place was built in 1981, with major renovations in 2001 to add the Atrium and Gallery. As the facility is nearly forty-five years old, a significant portion of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system have reached or exceeded its end of useful life. This is consistent with the Facility Condition Assessment information obtained in 2017.

An action item in the CCCAP for existing buildings and infrastructure is to conduct building energy audits in 2025. Sustainable Practices Administration has engaged FortisBC and BC Hydro to conduct energy audits on a number of Regional District facilities, including The Exploration Place. The energy audits will identify energy management opportunities for energy savings along with no-cost and low-cost tips to improve energy efficiency. This will also assist in prioritizing next steps to achieve large, long-term savings and energy management goals.

The Committee is not being asked to take any action at this time.

RELEVANT POLICIES:

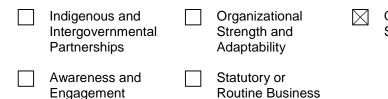
Corporate Climate Change Action Plan 2024:

• provides action items to reduce energy consumption, costs and GHG emissions

Asset Management Strategy 2017:

- sustainable service delivery
- predictable infrastructure investment

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ALIGNMENT:



Quality Community Services

Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action

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SERVICE RELEVANCE:

Sustainable Practices works with the relevant service areas to develop strategies and implement initiatives to effectively reduce the Regional District's corporate GHG emissions. The 2024 to 2028 Strategic Priorities include the implementation of both the Corporate Climate Change Action Plan (CCCAP) and a corporate asset management plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Budget implications for funding the energy audits are included in the Sustainable Practices (1403) budget. FortisBC delivers the energy audits at no charge to the Regional District. BC Hydro's Integrated Energy Audit program offers up to 100% funding for energy audits. If the cost for the BC Hydro audit is not completely covered, there is funding support available from the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) grant funds.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

N/A

DECISION OPTIONS:

- 1. Approve recommendation.
 - report will be received for information.

COMMENTS:

Energy audits are one of the first steps in the implementation of the Corporate Climate Change Action Plan. Identifying opportunities for energy savings and GHG emission reductions at Regional District facilities, including The Exploration Place, will assist in evaluating sustainable replacement options for aging infrastructure.

Respectfully submitted,

"R. Ryder"

Rachael Ryder Corporate Sustainability Specialist

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