



REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

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REPORT FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

TO: Chair and Members, Climate Action Mitigation and Adaptation
Standing Committee

FROM: Rachael Ryder, Corporate Sustainability Specialist

DATE: July 4, 2025

SUBJECT: The Exploration Place – Energy Audit – Update
SUMMARY: Purpose: For Information

Attachments:

1. Backgrounder - The Exploration Place Energy Audit - Update
2. Local Government Climate Action Program Survey Year 3 Submitted

Previous Reports:

1. Item 6.1, March 2025

RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT the report dated July 4, 2025, regarding “The Exploration Place – Energy Audit – Update” be received for information.

ENTITLEMENT	HOW VOTE COUNTED
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 consultant for FortisBC has completed the energy audit of the Exploration Place, along with three other Regional District Facilities. The summary reports include proposed energy conservation measures, and the savings associated with each upgrade. The next phase of this project is to conduct detailed, system-specific feasibility studies for the Exploration Place and Beaverly Fire Hall. These studies will estimate the financial and energy savings associated with the implementation of Gas Absorption Heat Pump (GAHP) technology. FortisBC provides funding of up to \$20,000 per feasibility study.

Sustainable Practices Administration continues to work with BC Hydro consultants to coordinate the electrical energy audits for the Exploration Place, 155 George Street Office Building, the recreation centres in the Robson Valley and the Public Safety and Operations Building.

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:

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous and Intergovernmental Partnerships | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Strength and Adaptability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quality Community Services | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness and Engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory or Routine Business | | |

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 CCCAP and a corporate asset management plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Budget implications for funding the feasibility studies are included in the Sustainable Practices (1403) budget. FortisBC has allocated reimbursement of up to \$20,000 for each of the feasibility studies. 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. The follow up studies will evaluate the technical feasibility and challenges of the proposed Gas Absorption Heat Pump, as well as the retrofit options for existing systems. The consultant will prepare the feasibility study reports with discussion of results and recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

"R. Ryder"

Rachael Ryder
Corporate Sustainability Specialist

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