

C7 - Add Value not Volume: Energy, Emissions & Official Community Plans-New Tools & Strategies for BC

Presentation title: Add Value not Volume: Energy, Emissions & Official Community Plans-New Tools & Strategies for BC

Presenters:

Alex Boston - HB Lanarc Consultants

Rob Barrs - HB Lanarc Consultants

Abstract

BC is emerging as a leader in North America on climate change, however all leadership activity is challenging. The front line of this process involves planning as the Province has both required that local governments address GHG emissions in Official Community Plans (OCPs) and provided a range of information for all types of BC communities to assist in the process. Addressing GHG emissions in planning will require potentially significant changes to existing land use (OCP) patterns and infrastructure systems in our communities. This will require new skills, knowledge and tools. The timelines and targets are significant, including a probable need to reduce our per capita emissions by over 50% in order to achieve the Province's 33% emission reduction goal by 2020. In the context of workloads and resource challenges, how can local governments most effectively deal with this new reality and its requirement and implications? HB Lanarc has been working with UBCM and the Province on its tools and strategies for civic government emissions and community emissions, for both large and small communities, addressing land use, transportation, infrastructure, buildings and many other issues. In this workshop, the HB Lanarc team will present a strategic path for communities to consider to address climate emissions while dealing with OCPs and others, including addressing the challenge of small and rural communities. Learning objectives • To explore the full scope of emission sources in a typical BC community – both large and small; • To explore the range and scale of changes possibly required to meet BC's legislated emission reductions of 33% below 2007 levels by 2020; • To explore the tools and methods that can be used to address climate emissions in OCPs, community planning, infrastructure and buildings for different sizes of communities in BC.

Biography

Before directing Climate Protection and Sustainable Energy with HB Lanarc, Alex Boston led climate and energy policy at the David Suzuki Foundation.

He works with municipalities and developers to strengthen climate protection programs and policies, and senior governments to harness capacity towards these ends. He is currently leading engagement and research for the BC Government-UBCM Green Communities Committee, established to provide direction to the province and local governments on going carbon neutral and developing complete, compact communities. Alex worked with the US Green Building Council, US Conference of Mayors, Clinton Climate Initiative, City of Seattle and leading local governments across the US to develop strategic climate action guidance through the website GreenPlaybook.org.

He has been an advisor to all 14 provincial government departments in establishing their internal GHG management strategies. He led the Canadian outreach and educational activity of the Great Lakes Climate Impacts initiative of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

He was lead researcher for the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities and a British Council Scholar at Oxford's Environmental Change Institute where he earned his MSc.

Alex's best practice knowledge across many jurisdictions is reinforced by an appreciation of best process. He combines strategic planning, meaningful engagement, governance know-how, technical knowledge, and innovative policy to design pragmatic, high-impact programs.

He grew up in Chilliwack. When not working to protect the climate, Alex revels in its magnificence around the rainforested BC Coast where he lives.