

Urban Clean-up Program with John Howard Society

Context

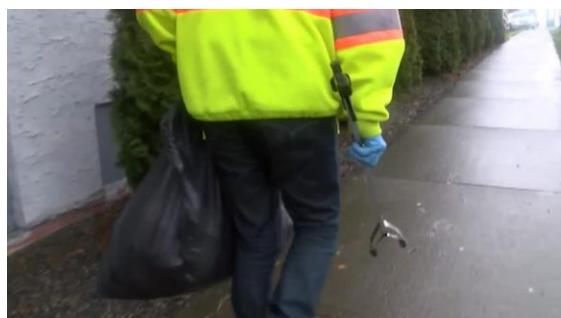
What was the procurement risk or opportunity?

The Urban Clean-up Program was developed in response to concerns voiced by downtown residents and businesses about the impacts that social issues were having on the urban areas of the city, such as rubbish left behind from the homeless population. The City noted this gap in its own service provisions and recognized an opportunity to create social value while addressing cleanliness issues. As a result, the City found a local non-profit organization, the Nanaimo Region of the John Howard Society, to work with and create an Urban Clean-Up Program. The program was originally brought to life in 2007 for a short period of time and was rebooted in 2017 due to an increase in the number of needles and other debris being found in the downtown area.

Procurement Process

What processes were used and who was engaged?

The City reached out directly to the Nanaimo Region of the John Howard Society (JHS), who put together a proposal, resulting in a direct sourced contract. The idea was to create a social enterprise business model solution that would hire individuals with barriers to employment, such as those who have experienced homelessness or incarceration, to clean-up discarded needles and other debris.



Impact

What outcomes did we find?

The program has been successful both for the hired participants, who are receiving a fair wage, and for the resulting cleanliness of the downtown area. The program employs two part-time JHS staff and six participants. Although some participants have come and gone, there have been four who have been actively engaged with the program over the past three years. Between 2017 and 2020 a total of 3,064 bags of garbage and 3,843 discarded syringes have been picked up. Additionally, other business and groups in the downtown core have separately contracted JHS for these services on their private property, providing further employment through the program. Another outcome the City has noted, is the increased community acceptance felt by the participants through a job that helps them feel secure and improves the way they see themselves.

What started off as a small contract with the City, is showing growth and resilience. It has been great for the participants to get experience and find a routine again. – Bill Corsan, Director, Community Development

REIMAGINE NANAIMO: OCP Review Contract

Context

What was the procurement risk or opportunity?

When the time came for the City to update the Official Community Plan (OCP), they recognized an opportunity to strengthen engagement with the community while creating more effective plans. Under the *REIMAGINE NANAIMO* brand, staff set out to do a comprehensive review of all strategic documents at once, with significant contribution from community members; especially traditionally harder to reach voices. The end goal is to have all City strategies more integrated with one another by using the same baseline data, with complimentary objectives, informed through a process that builds social license with the community.



Procurement Process

What processes were used and who was engaged?

The City used an RFP process to seek out the service from a consultant who could reach these audiences and use a variety of engagement techniques. Within the RFP, the City laid out key principles and social objectives to be achieved. Specifically noting the opportunity to work with local Master of Planning Students at Vancouver Island University as part of the contract. It was left up to the vendors to come up with a plan that would meet the objectives indicated by the City. LANARC, a local Nanaimo consultancy, picked up on all the right notes, putting together a comprehensive plan that allowed opportunity for the students to not only support the review in various ways, but to also develop the syllabus for student engagement initiatives.

Impact

What outcomes did we find?

While the engagement process will be kicking-off in July 2020, the social procurement desired outcomes focused on:

- Having the broadest consultation program and reach more people than in the past;
- Providing local university students with real-world experience and skills development;
- Engaging with hard to reach audiences, like youth and students, Indigenous peoples, renters, the arts community, and various non-profits as conduits to their members;
- Reconciliation with local First Nations and the Urban Indigenous Population; and,
- Reducing costs and creating more effective strategic documents through one-time consolidated, but robust, community outreach efforts.

It is very important for the community to have a sense of ownership of the City's strategic plans and be directly involved in their development. – Bill Corsan, Director, Community Development

REALice Resurfacing Technology

Context

What was the procurement risk or opportunity?

As a signatory of the BC Climate Action Charter, and a participant of the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP), the City is always searching for opportunities to reduce their corporate emissions. A new technology for ice-resurfacing entered the market, called REALice, which involves installing a piece of equipment within the system's piping and allows ice to be resurfaced using cold water instead of hot. REALice had an independent study completed to validate their claims of achieving up to 79% reductions in natural gas usage, when operated optimally. The City knew this was an opportunity that needed to be explored further.

Procurement Process

What processes were used and who was engaged?

The City was able to attend a demonstration at a neighbouring municipality and also completed a review of its own arena, to identify the potential energy savings with this new technology considered. The City published an RFQ, and while several bids provided similar solutions, none met the same level of energy savings as REALice. One unit was procured and installed at the Nanaimo Ice Center in 2017. With proven results, the City directly awarded a contract for REALice the following year to put units into the Frank Crane and Cliff McNabb Arenas.



Impact

What outcomes did we find?

Fortis BC covered both the cost of the initial energy study and offset 50% of the cost of the units; this, combined with the savings from reduced energy usage, resulted in a financial pay-back of approximately two years. The technology also creates an overall simpler process for cleaning the ice that produces less snow, generates less humidity in the building, and creates better quality, stronger ice. Emissions are reduced both due to the reduced energy need for heating the water as well as less natural gas needed for cooling the building. The estimated energy savings at Frank Crane and Cliff McNabb combined are 762 gigajoules per year. Due to the leadership taken by the City to lower its energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, the City won FortisBC's 2019 Efficiency in Action Award for Public Sector - Municipal for the energy-saving upgrades at Beban Park Pool, Frank Crane and Cliff McNabb arenas.

It is not often that a new technology like this come along, and by doing market research ahead of time we were able to validate the benefits, both from an environmental and financial perspective. – Scott Pamminger, Energy Manager

High-Efficiency Boilers

Context

What was the procurement risk or opportunity?

The two boilers in the heating plant at the Beban Park Facilities, originally built in 1975, were nearing the end of their life, becoming very expensive to run and repair. The City brought on Prism Engineering to complete an energy audit and preliminary design study featuring new more efficient boiler options as it was time to replace the nearly 40-year-old boilers. The results showed the current boilers were only 50% efficient whereas new condensing boiler options were 90% efficient. Fortis BC paid for this study and would provide further incentive funding if the City implemented the study's recommendations.

Procurement Process

What processes were used and who was engaged?

The City started with a RFSQ (Request for Supplier Qualifications) outlining their energy reduction targets. Followed by an RFP process going with the study's recommendations for specifications of the high-efficient natural gas condensing boilers, as opposed to electric boilers because of the limited electrical capacity at the facility.



Impact

What outcomes did we find?

The estimated annual natural gas savings at the facilities was more than 3,800 gigajoules per year, the equivalent of removing approximately 50 gasoline-powered cars off the road for a year. In addition to the financial savings from reduced energy consumption, Fortis BC offset 20% of the upfront costs through their incentive program. Due to the leadership taken by the City to lower its energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, the City won FortisBC's 2019 Efficiency in Action Award for Public Sector - Municipal for the energy-saving upgrades at Beban Park Pool, Frank Crane and Cliff McNabb arenas. Since the City recognized the benefits of energy savings initiatives and technologies early on, City staff were able to lead an informed procurement process resulting in the right fit of technology, saving energy and money.

We need to always be thinking about opportunities, when boilers or other technologies reach the end of their life, to look at the sustainability options well-before going into the procurement process. That will ensure we are aligning procurement with our energy reduction objectives.

– Scott Pamminer, Energy Manager

Green Fleet: Alternative Fuel Vehicles

Context

What was the procurement risk or opportunity?

As transportation accounts for a large portion of the City's GHG emissions, the City developed a Green Fleet Strategy (GFS) to guide actions needed to reduce emissions, improve efficiency, and develop standards associated with their fleet. An important component of the GFS is moving away from gasoline and diesel fuels towards hybrid, electric, and other alternatives. In 2019, the City also joined the E3 Fleet program which provides yearly reviews and recommendations for continuous improvement. The City strives to proactively look at vehicle replacement needs to assess vehicle size, operational need, efficiencies, and alternative fuel source options through a lens of reducing environmental impact while meeting job requirements.



Procurement Process

What processes were used and who was engaged?

To procure alternative fuel vehicles, the City uses RFP processes with a combination of specifications and value-add questions to ensure the bids met their sustainability goals. Among other standard criteria, the City includes environmental considerations within the product's life cycle, engine type, and emissions. One particular example was the procurement of garbage trucks that were Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) powered and also built for multi-stream pick-up. This further decreases emissions as only one truck is needed on the road, instead of three, for garbage, recycling, and compost.



Impact

What outcomes did we find?

To date the City has purchased four plug-in hybrid vehicles, 21 propane/CNG pickup trucks, nine CNG garbage trucks, five fully electric cars, and five fully electric ice resurfacing machines. These purchases account for a 17% decrease in diesel fuel used and a 4% decrease in gasoline used from 2007 – 2018. Particularly for the hybrid and electric vehicles, the cost savings from reduced fuel usage provides a return on investment within about three years. The City has stayed on track for achieving or surpassing their fleet GHG emissions reduction targets each year and was awarded a Silver Rating from the E3 Fleet Rating System in the 2019 review.

The decision to move towards alternative fuels has been solely based on the environmental benefits and to show community leadership for reducing emissions, though, the business-case for electric options speaks for itself. – Mike Squire, Acting Fleet Manager