



Dear Mayor and Council,

We are writing to request your support for the recently launched [Help Cities Lead Campaign](#). Help Cities Lead is an education and awareness campaign to accelerate building decarbonization through collaboration between the Province of British Columbia and local governments. The campaign is led by Climate Caucus and supported by local governments and environmental NGOs.

We are asking that Council:

- endorse the Help Cities Lead Campaign campaign; and
- commit to sending a letter of support to the Hon. Josie Osbourne, Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Hon. George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ECCS), the Hon. Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance, the Hon. Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLCI) and Hon. David Eby, Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Housing

Allowing for local government leadership is critical to developing innovative policies and programs to achieve deep emissions reductions from the building sector throughout the province. However, tools currently available to local governments to pursue these critical reduction targets are largely limited to information campaigns and incentives and are insufficient to achieve broad and deep energy and GHG reductions at scale.

The Help Cities Lead campaign identifies a suite of measures that will enable local governments to take effective action on reducing GHG emissions from new and existing buildings. Five regulatory measures have been identified where additional authority would be instrumental for municipalities in accelerating climate action:

- Regulating GHG emissions for new buildings
- Home energy labelling
- Property assessed clean energy (PACE) enabling legislation as outlined in the accompanying [letter from PACE BC](#).
- Regulating GHG emissions for existing buildings
- Building energy benchmarking and reporting

Direction to implement the first three of these measures - enabling local governments to regulate GHG emissions for new buildings, home energy labelling, and PACE financing - were included in the ministerial mandate letters issued in November 2020. Help Cities Lead encourages the province to move as quickly as possible and in close consultation with local governments to develop and implement these measures.

Help Cities Lead would also like the province to enable local governments to choose, when ready, to opt into the remaining two measures not addressed by the mandate letters - namely, regulating GHG emissions for existing buildings and Building energy benchmarking and reporting.

All five of these initiatives will complement what the provincial government and utilities are already doing in these areas. Additional information about each of the initiatives can be found at <https://www.helpcitieslead.ca/>

It is our hope that you will put forward a motion to Council which endorses this campaign and commits to sending letters of support to Ministers Osbourne, Heyman, Robinson, Eby, and Ralston.

Sincerely,

Will Cole-Hamilton
Councillor, City of Courtenay
Director, Climate Caucus
Steering Committee, Help Cities Lead

SUPPORT FOR HELP CITIES LEAD FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Sample Resolution

WHEREAS emissions by buildings account for 40-60% of a community's green-house gas (GHG) emissions;

WHEREAS climate policy modelling completed for Help Cities Lead shows current actions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from buildings are insufficient to achieve the province's GHG targets for 2030 and 2050;

WHEREAS the November 2020 mandate letters to ministers include direction to provincial ministries to move forward with three of the five policy measures included in the Help Cities Lead climate policy modelling: GHG requirements for new buildings, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, and home energy labelling.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT [your local government] write a letter to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Housing, and the Minister of Finance, expressing its endorsement of the Help Cities Lead campaign; support for the directions set out in the November 2020 ministerial mandate letters regarding GHG requirements for new buildings, PACE financing, and home energy labelling; and also requesting that the province empower local governments to opt to take action, if they so choose, on the two remaining items of the Help Cities Lead's campaign, namely GHG requirements for existing buildings and building energy benchmarking.

[ON LETTERHEAD]

[DATE]

Dear Honourable Ministers,

The [City/Town/Village] of [BLANK] is sending this letter to you as an endorsement of the Help Cities Lead (HCL) campaign.

As you are aware, municipalities are on the front lines of climate change dealing with the impacts of floods, droughts, forest fires, heat waves, etc. We directly influence about half of Canada's energy use and emissions. The success of the province in achieving deep emissions reductions from the building sector is directly connected to the success of local governments in achieving their own targets. While municipalities have shown strong climate leadership, expanded regulatory authority is needed for taking bolder steps to achieving our climate targets.

HCL is an education and awareness campaign focused on accelerating building decarbonization through collaboration between the Province of British Columbia and local governments. The group is led by Climate Caucus and supported by local governments and environmental NGO's.

Why buildings? Emissions from buildings account for about 11% of the province's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and for municipalities, GHG emissions from existing buildings account for 40-60% of community emissions. A number of BC local governments have made climate emergency declarations and set ambitious targets to significantly reduce GHG emissions from buildings over the next 10 years. However, local governments are largely limited to information campaigns and incentives for pursuing these ambitious reduction targets. Recent climate policy modelling shows that on their own, these policy tools are insufficient to achieve broad and deep energy and GHG reductions given limited budgets.

HCL campaign recommends a suite of expanded authorities for local governments that will enable communities to take bolder action on reducing GHG emissions from new and existing buildings:

- Property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing
- Mandatory home energy labelling
- Regulating GHG emissions for new buildings
- Regulating GHG emissions for existing buildings
- Mandatory building energy benchmarking and reporting

We are pleased to see that the November 2020 mandate letters to the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Infrastructure support the implementation of PACE financing. We also note that the mandate letter for the Minister of Finance supports home energy labelling. Finally we pleased to see that the mandate letter to the Attorney-General and Minister Responsible for Housing includes support for regulation of GHG emission of new buildings.

We support the directions set out in these new mandate letters regarding PACE financing, home energy labelling, and GHG requirements for new buildings and request that the province empower local governments to opt to take action, if they so choose, on the two remaining items of the Help Cities Lead's campaign, namely GHG requirements for existing buildings and building energy benchmarking. Additional information about each of the initiatives can be found at <https://www.helpcitieslead.ca/>

It is our hope that you would consider meeting with a delegation from Help Cities Lead for further discussion on these initiatives.

Sincerely,

Mayor of [BLANK]

CC

The Hon. Minister George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Hon. Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs, MAH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Hon. Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation, EMPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Hon. David Eby, Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing, AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Hon. Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance, FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca