



Agenda No: 5.2

Mtg. Date: Nov 8/12

Governance & Services Committee

TO: Governance & Services Committee

FROM: Peter Rotheisler
Manager, Waste Reduction

DATE: October 23, 2012

SUBJECT: Introduction to delegation on biomass heating

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the October 23, 2012 report titled, Introduction to delegation on biomass heating, be received for information.

Purpose: To provide the Governance and Services Committee with information on a meeting Regional District Environmental Services staff had with representatives from the Green Heat Initiative and the B.C. Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills related to biomass (i.e. wood waste) heating systems for local communities in British Columbia.

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan: Sustainability.

Environmental & Social: Solid Waste Management

Financial/Intergovernmental: Funding opportunity for alternative energy solutions for local governments in the Central Okanagan.

BACKGROUND:

Regional District Environmental Services staff met with David Dubois, Project Coordinator with the Green Heat Initiative and Marc Imus, Director, Community Economic Development, Pine Beetle Epidemic Response Branch of the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training on October 22, 2012 to discuss the potential for heating Regional District buildings with biomass heating. Funding and services are potentially available to local governments from the Green Heat Initiative and Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition (SIBAC) to implement biomass heating systems in local government buildings. Based on discussions with Regional District staff there are no Regional District buildings that would clearly benefit by switching to biomass heating, however the information was presented to senior Regional District staff for further consideration.

In most regions of British Columbia there is an abundance of biomass supply and a lack of demand. However, currently in the Central Okanagan, the opposite supply and demand conditions exist. Demand for biomass in the Central Okanagan is driven by the City of Kelowna, Tolko Industries, and Bylands Nursery. Biomass is the primary feedstock for large scale composting and cogeneration operations and the market for the material has becoming increasingly competitive with demand greatly outweighing supply.

Incineration of biomass rated very competitively in the Life Cycle Assessment of Organic Waste Management Options study recently completed by the Central Okanagan Regional District. Specifically, incineration rates highly from a social impact and financial perspective for managing clean construction wood waste and yard and garden waste.

Conclusion:

Unlike many regions of British Columbia, there is a high demand for biomass in the Central Okanagan. Several low cost and highly sustainable options exist for disposing of biomass and several large scale operations including the City of Kelowna's GlenGrow and OgoGrow composting programs are greatly dependent on a steady local feedstock of the material. However, diverting biomass from the traditional markets to small scale heating systems may result in meaningful financial, social and environmental benefits under the right circumstances. Circumstances where it may make sense include areas without access to natural gas or for areas situated on the periphery of the Regional District that incur high transport costs to dispose of biomass waste (eg. Electoral Areas and District of Peachland). Regional District staff recently provided data to District of Peachland staff on yard and garden waste generated from the curbside collection program for the purposes of evaluating a biomass heating system.

Submitted by:

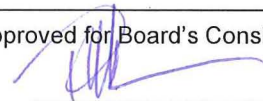


P. Rotheisler, Manager, Waste Reduction

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal
Organizational
Policy
Operational

Approved for Board's Consideration



Paul Macklem, CAO