



Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board

FROM: David Komaïke
Director of Engineering Services

DATE: August 23, 2021

SUBJECT: Green Vehicle and Equipment Policy Implementation Plan 2021-2040

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority – LGA 208.1*

Purpose: To present the draft RDCO Green Vehicle and Equipment Policy Implementation Plan for the Regional Board's consideration.

Executive Summary:

In 2019 the Regional Board passed resolution #230/19, directing staff to draft a policy and covering report on the acquisition of electric and hybrid vehicles into the Regional District's vehicle fleet. To that end the RDCO Green Vehicle and Equipment Policy was developed and adopted in 2020. Following the adoption of the Policy, the Board asked staff to develop an implementation plan outlining the actions necessary for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction within the organization's vehicle and equipment pools. The RDCO will implement the Green Vehicle and Equipment Policy by aligning the implementation plan with the RDCO 2019-2022 Strategic Priorities, using a multifaceted approach to attain the objectives setting short and long-term targets, continually improving on internal processes, and reporting to the Board annually.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Regional Board approve the RDCO Green Vehicle and Equipment Policy Implementation Plan 2021-2040 as attached to the report dated August 23, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DK/K", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

David Komaïke
Director of Engineering Services

Approved for Board's Consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Reardon", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brian Reardon, CAO

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan:	The Implementation Plan aligns with the priorities noted in the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan, specifically the sustainable communities and environment priorities.
General:	The Plan incorporates and speaks to Regional Board Resolution #230/19.
Organizational:	The successful implementation of this Plan will require staff training in fuel conservation techniques (continual driver training), and maintenance procedures for alternative fuel vehicles.
Financial:	The draft Plan is intended to minimize the potential financial impacts of rapid fleet conversion to hybrid and/or zero-emission vehicles, minimize corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and maximize staff engagement and knowledge of new low emission vehicle technology.
Policy:	The draft Plan relates to various existing RDCO policies and procedures, including the RDCO Purchasing Policy No. 7.20
Legal/Statutory Authority:	The Plan aligns with the RDCO's commitments under the B.C. Climate Action Charter.

Background

As a signatory of the B.C. Climate Action Charter, the RDCO is committed to becoming carbon neutral in its corporate operations. As such, the Regional District is focusing on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The reduction of GHG emissions can be accomplished in various ways, one being the introduction of alternative fuel vehicles and equipment into organizational vehicle and equipment pools, another being the incorporation of generally accepted green vehicle and equipment strategies into everyday operations.

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Policy Statement

As a signatory of the B.C. Climate Action Charter, the Regional District of Central Okanagan is committed to reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by the vehicles and equipment used in the delivery of RDCO services. This will be achieved by:

- Incorporating alternative fuel vehicles and equipment into operations where financially and technically sustainable;
- Rightsizing vehicles, equipment, and overall fleet size; and
- Conducting all fleet and equipment life cycle activities in a manner supporting efficiency and return on investment while reducing petroleum use.

Scope

The Green Vehicle and Equipment Policy Implementation Plan applies 2021-2040 to all vehicles and equipment owned and/or operated by the Regional District of Central Okanagan, including:

- vehicles
- large equipment (over \$2500)
- facility related equipment (ex. HVAC equipment)
- process related equipment (i.e. pumps and generators)

Equipment related to Information Technology is not included in the scope of this plan.

Implementation Strategy

- Align the implementation actions with the 2019-2022 Strategic Priorities Plan
- Action the objectives with S.M.A.R.T. tasks
- Set long and short-term targets for Zero-Emission Vehicle Implementation
- Monitor, review, and revise the plan
- Report Plan progress annually to the Regional Board

Implementation Timeline Targets (Zero-Emission Vehicles Only)

The RDCO will strive to match the Zero-Emission Vehicle implementation timeline used by the Province in the Zero-Emission Vehicle Act¹. Staff will report progress towards the targets to the Regional Board annually.

Target replacement percentages of light duty fleet with Zero-emission vehicles:

- 10% by 2025
- 30% by 2030
- 100% by 2040

Risks to the Success of the Implementation Plan:

Shifts in supply and demand due to COVID 19 make the next year unpredictable in regard to the availability of hybrid and zero-emission vehicles. Further, the technology in these vehicles will be new and may result in dealership adjustments or recalls. Both of these risk factors can be mitigated with a reasonable implementation timeline (2021-2040), and a flexible approach to purchasing hybrid and zero-emission vehicles. Should zero-emission vehicles not be available, hybrid vehicles will be the next reasonable choice for purchase in that period. Should neither hybrid or zero-emission vehicles be available in a given year, the other actions outlined in the Plan will serve to minimize the potential increase in GHG emissions for that year.

This Plan does not address the potential risks related to increased GHG emissions due to external drivers other than those related to the vehicle industry. External drivers include: increase in volume hauled, increase in operations due to population growth, and increase in level of service required by RDCO communities.

Financial Considerations:

The goal of this Plan is to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions while maximizing the return on investment over the life of the asset and meeting the technical needs of RDCO operations.

¹ 'Zero-Emission Vehicle Act', *Clean Transportation Policies and Programs*, Province of British Columbia, 2021, <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/electricity-alternative-energy/transportation-energies/clean-transportation-policies-programs/zero-emission-vehicles-act>, (accessed 10-08-2021).

There may be times when the upfront or capital cost of an alternative fuel asset is higher than the capital cost of a conventional fuel asset; however, the higher initial cost will be recovered over the life of the asset through lower operating and maintenance costs.

Implementation of this Plan will be reflected in changes to the five-year capital plan. These changes will require Regional Board approval through the annual Financial Plan approval process.

Alternative Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Board receive the draft Green Vehicle and Equipment Policy Implementation Plan 2021-2040 Report, dated August 23, 2021, for information;

AND THAT the Regional Board request staff bring back more information prior to approving the draft Green Vehicle and Equipment Policy Implementation Plan 2021-2040 as outlined in the report dated August 23, 2021.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

- *Organizational Considerations*
- *External Implications:*

Attachment(s):

1. Draft Green Vehicle and Equipment Policy Implementation Plan 2021-2040