

## Clean and Renewable Energy Regulatory Framework

### Background

As identified by the UBCM, there are a number of ways to improve our ecological footprint and energy consumption through energy efficiency and green power, including:

- The re-use and/or re-purpose of embodied energy in existing structures.
- Replacement of inefficient equipment and/or building supplies, such as replacing incandescent bulbs with more efficient options.
- Retrofit of civic facilities to be energy efficient.
- Consideration for solar, wind, geothermal, low-impact hydro, biomass, bio-gas and solar thermal energy generation.

With respect to the improvement of energy consumption through energy efficiency, UBCM has put forward a number of resolutions and subsequent funding/program opportunities including:

- EB58 - Provincial Tools for Building Energy Benchmarking
- NR37 - Provincial Enabling of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing by Local Governments
- NR51 - Facilitating Clean Energy Retrofits
- NR52 - Home Emissions and Energy Rating and Labelling

However, where there has been opportunities provided for energy efficiency, little has been put forward that clearly identifies and supports opportunities for municipalities to construct/utilize clean energy generation projects to better service local energy needs and deliver economic benefits to their respective community.

Whereas UBCM resolution NR49 (Funding for Clean Renewable Energy Projects) identifies a variety of funding sources that support the investment/development of clean energy generation projects, there appears to be little support/interest on behalf of provincial interests and/or the regulatory environment to support municipalities in benefiting from the socio-economic opportunities available via local energy resources.

In 2019, the BCUC began proceedings to determine if municipal energy operations should be deemed a public utility and held under the same regulatory environment as other energy operations in the Province. And while this will help determine if/how municipal owned operations are to be regulated as a public utility, it does not resolve the uncertainty around the appetite of the Province to support/partner in such opportunities with municipalities. By way of resolution via AVICC, staff recommends seeking further clarification from the Province on how municipalities can utilize the variety of funding options to invest/partner and participate in clean energy generation projects in their communities. Furthermore, it is recommended that the Province consider the ability of municipalities to access and/or partner

with the province in the use of existing public infrastructure in support of local clean energy generation projects.

### **Background Documents**

- 2020 UBCM Annual Convention Resolutions Decisions - <https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Convention/2020/Media~Room/2020-ubcm-resolutions-disposition.pdf>
- Funding Opportunities for Clean Energy - [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/electricity-alternative-energy/community-energy-solutions/funding\\_opportunities\\_clean\\_community\\_energy\\_bc.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/electricity-alternative-energy/community-energy-solutions/funding_opportunities_clean_community_energy_bc.pdf)
- UBCM Energy Efficiency and Green Power - <https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/about/general-information/lg-house/energy-and-power.html>
- British Columbia Utilities Commission An Inquiry into the Regulation of Municipal Energy Utilities - <https://www.bcuc.com/ApplicationView.aspx?ApplicationId=695>